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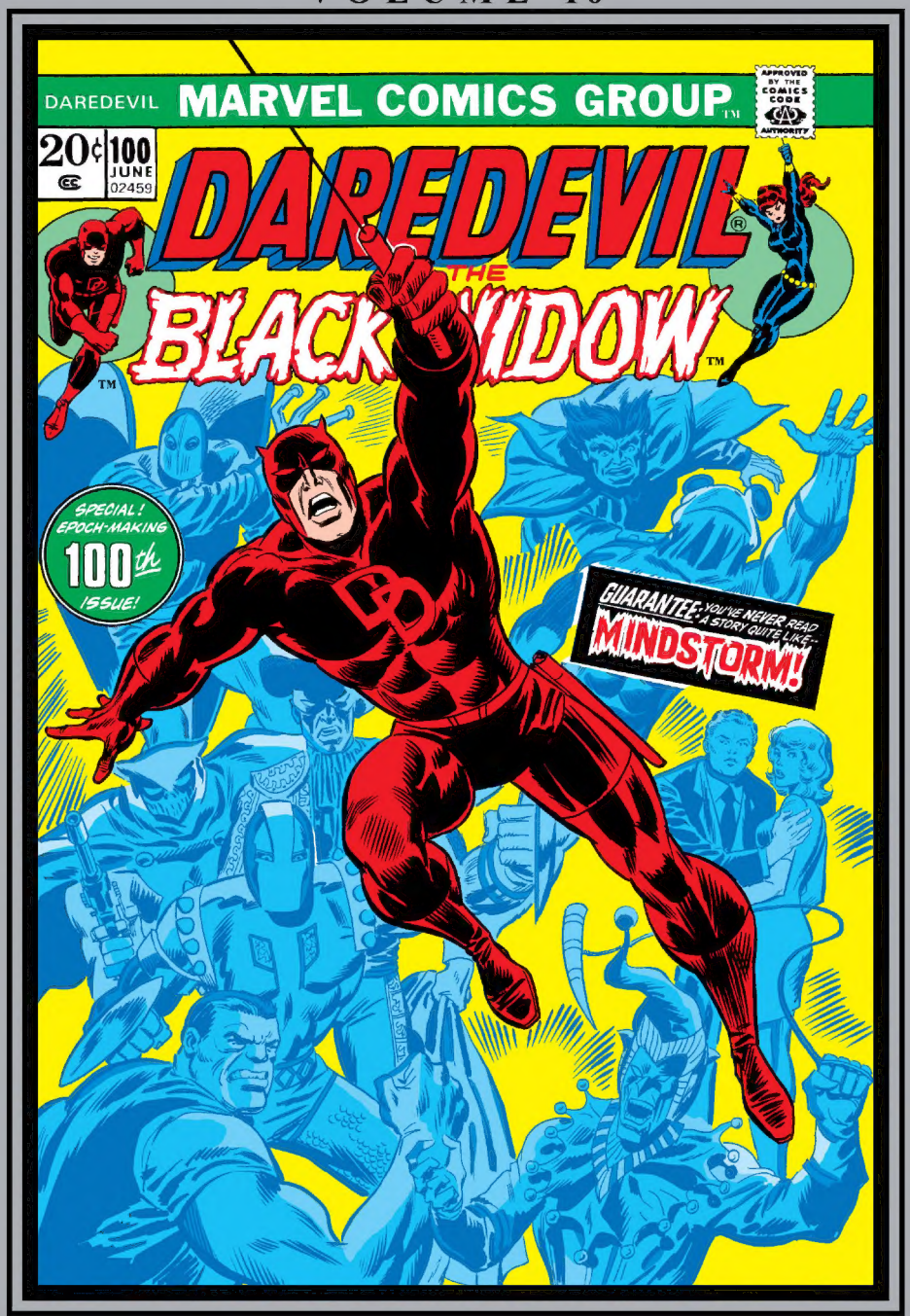
DAREDEVIL®

VOLUME 10



DAREDEVIL Nos. 97-107
& THE AVENGERS No. 111
STEVE GERBER, GENE COLAN & DON HECK

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 10

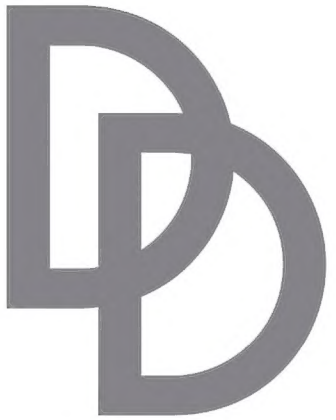
COLLECTING

DAREDEVIL Nos. 97-107

& THE AVENGERS No. 111

STEVE GERBER

GENE COLAN • DON HECK



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NOS. 97-107 & THE AVENGERS NO. 111

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LOOK BACK IN ANGAR
BY JON B. COOKE

As a young reader, little about *Daredevil* kept me engaged enough to keep abreast of the title, despite serviceable scripts by Roy Thomas and Gerry Conway, respectively, and Gene Colan's atmospheric artistry. It would take three developments for this burgeoning comics fan to begin anticipating the monthly series: fresh blood, a new location, and the tenure of Tom Palmer, embellisher extraordinaire. The arrival of the alluded-to Black Widow as permanent resident was an infusion of silky sexuality most welcome to more than one male adolescent, and the Man Without Fear's move to the legendary City by the Bay was, like, a totally cool happening, man.

Writer Gerry Conway's teaming of DD and the recently redesigned Natasha Romanoff was a brilliant stroke in 1971, at least for this 12-year-old, and although four years had passed since the Summer of Love, San Francisco still possessed a mystical allure for young people and it was quite the novelty to have a Marvel character claim a city other than the Big Apple as home. Then, things within *Daredevil* suddenly got *really* weird. And, as gonzo journalist for a famed Golden Gate City publication (a rock 'n' roll rag we'll talk about in a few) Hunter S. Thompson so aptly quipped, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

That weird pro coming aboard to put *Daredevil* through some heavy trips was young Missourian Stephen Ross Gerber, a scribe newly arrived at Marvel who would become one of the most respected writers in the history of American comics, a talent known for his irreverence, wit, and vivid, often absurdist imagination…and, of course, a man celebrated for his creation of a certain duck named Howard. Back in early 1973, though a longtime fan, Steve Gerber was a novice at the comics game, getting his start at the House of Ideas by acing a writer's test (dialoguing a six-page *Daredevil* car-chase sequence drawn by Colan). Gerber was thrust onto *Shanna, the She-Devil* and *Fear* featuring Man-Thing to develop his writing chops. Very soon thereafter *Daredevil* was piled onto the young man's workload.

Let's be frank about Steve. It is not easy to get a critical grasp on the Gerber *Daredevil* run reprinted in this collection. There are germs of some fine ideas herein, hints of an epic that could have been more adequately explored, shades of characterization worthy of bringing into sharper focus, and themes begging to be expanded upon… Gerber reaches high, but doesn't always hit the bar. In fairness, we need to remember that this assignment was at the beginning of his professional career. In 1997, Gerber discussed this with interviewer Kuljit Mithra of *manwithoutfear.com*. "In those days," he said, "*Daredevil* was one of a couple of books that were routinely assigned to new writers. The book sold fairly consistently, but not very well, so there was nothing major at stake if the writer flubbed it. It served as a low-risk arena in which writers could hone their craft."

The first two issues of the Gerber tenure were based on plots by outgoing scribe Gerry Conway. In *Back Issue* #45, Conway told Lex Carson, "I don't really recall having any conversations with Steve about the book, other than to tell him what I had in mind with some plot threads I had left hanging." The stories center on a street acrobat named Mordecai Jones, a kid transformed by nefarious forces into a golden-skinned demi-god named the Dark Messiah who, with his three disciples Josiah the Deceiver, Macabee the Tall, and Uriah the Faithful, claim San Francisco's Golden Gate Park as a new "holy land."

Now, if you ask me, given that 1970s California was a hotbed of religious cults, pseudo- and otherwise—think Heaven's Gate, the Manson Family, never mind the orange-robed Hare Krishnas proselytizing seemingly on every street corner—one would think the entrance of a self-proclaimed "bringer of divine destiny," a god-like villain with miraculous powers (and a trio of super-powered henchmen, to boot), could be storyline rife with possibilities regarding the proliferation of young people seeking answers outside traditional religion—and those who exploit the lost souls. Alas, Mordecai and his triumvirate are dispatched rather abruptly before any hint of a theme emerges. (Still, we'd be remiss to forget that, upon sharpening his rhetorical gifts for satire a couple of years later in *Howard the Duck*, Gerber *did* take on religious zealotry, lampooning Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his Unification Moonies with #6's Rev. Joon Moon Yuc and his Yucchies!)

Because the departed scripter had outlined the tales Gerber would dialogue, Gerry Conway was asked if, indeed, a deeper examination into contemporary sectarian fanaticism might have been contemplated. "Hard to say what I intended all those years ago," the writer replied, "though the themes you mention sound like something we would have wanted to deal with—cults and the remnants of hippie culture were fertile soil for fantasy fiction in the mid-'70s. But beyond that I honestly don't recall." While it's a stretch, the exit of the Dark Messiah just might have been accelerated given that, at the same time, another blond-locked, gold-skinned (okay, orange!) quasi-deity was working out his own New Testament allegory at Marvel in the pages of *Warlock*, albeit this gospel being exhorted on Counter-Earth.

Now, back in those halcyon days, kiddos, while freelancers often worked at home, being based in the New York tri-state area was requisite for most contributors and they usually hand-delivered assignments into the Bullpen. And some, like Gerber, would work office jobs in the House of Ideas, where friendships would be nurtured and collaborations conceived. The first of those efforts came with *Daredevil* #99 and *Avengers* #111 where Gerber linked up with Steve Englehart for a crossover pitting DD, the Avengers and the X-Men against Magneto.

Apart from a potential sales bump, the crossover served another purpose: *DD* #99 begins to reveal the scribe's dislike for the title's co-star. The Black Widow, Gerber felt, worked contrary to the titular hero's strength. "One of the keys to understanding the Daredevil character," the writer explained to Kuljit Mithra, "is that he's one man alone, in darkness. Mitigate the totality of that darkness and the character becomes much less interesting. Natasha was a mitigating factor. However much I may have liked *looking* at her, she just didn't belong in *Daredevil*." In fact, with the help of Englehart, Natasha Romanoff outright quits the partnership at the conclusion of *Avengers* #111.

With Colan's departure as mainstay artist, *Daredevil* would be graced by a number of pencilers, including Don Heck, Rich Buckler, Syd Shores, Bob Brown, and interestingly, a credit not seen in a comic book published by Stan Lee's outfit since the 1950s: Sam Kweskin. Assisted by Shores, Kweskin penciled *DD* #99, and would pitch in to help ailing Bill Everett on *Sub-Mariner* during much of 1973, usually illustrating Gerber scripts. The name would vanish from comics as quickly as it had in 1953 when Kweskin initially disappeared after drawing about 25 stories for Atlas. About his '73 exodus, the artist told historian Ken Quattro, "Whether Roy Thomas or Stan or I decided it was not in the cards to continue [*Sub-Mariner*] after a few issues, I can't remember, since at the time I was also president of my own small ad/art agency and responsible to several employees."

Hardly unusual for a landmark occasion, *Daredevil* #100 includes a recapping of the Man Without Fear's origin story, expressed in flashback. What is *very* unusual for this anniversary issue is the inclusion of a real-life publisher as full-fledged guest-star, particularly one unaffiliated

with Marvel Comics. Jann Wenner, co-founder and guiding light of the alternative pop culture magazine *Rolling Stone*, interviews a reluctant DD in the comic, with the crime-fighter rhapsodizing about his avocation. True, the bi-weekly tabloid was, almost from its 1967 start, a San Francisco institution (one that incidentally spotlighted the Marvel Bullpen in a '71 issue), but to specifically feature such a counter-cultural celebrity as Wenner is, well, kinda wacky.

Steve Gerber told Richard Beland, on the Howard the Duck Yahoo! Groups message board in 2004, "I did get [Wenner's] permission, of course, to use him as a guest-star in the story, and he agreed, but I didn't even have a photo of him to work from. I just pictured what I *thought* he should look like, based on what I'd read of his writing, and described that to Gene Colan. Weirdly enough, it turned out to be a pretty good likeness." (Well, everything but the hair color, but how was Stan Goldberg supposed to know the wunderkind was a brunette and not blond?)

Though I am grateful for having had the opportunity to interview the man on occasion, a true regret is not having asked the late writer about this oddity (Steve Gerber passed away suddenly, at 60, in 2008), especially upon my recently receiving from friend Lee Hester, of Lee's Comics, another mystery related to *DD* #100: a copy affixed with a dayglo orange sticker emblazoned with the statement, "*Rolling Stone* meets Daredevil," and annotation, "See page 10." One presumes this was used as a possible giveaway for promotion…but where, when, and how…?

The story's antagonist, this "living LSD factory" who puts the city's populace through a massive acid trip, turns out to be pissed-off, embittered, and disillusioned ex-flower child, Angar the Screamer, a villain sporting long-locks and beatnik necklace, with a frilled vest covering his bare torso. We find the motivation for this raging, hate-filled hippie in *DD* #101, and learn the cause of his fury is—cue eye-rolls at the irony—the end of his generation's dream for love, peace, and freedom. Angar is not unlike the dichotomy of Charlton Comics' '60s action hero, The Peacemaker, subtitled, "A Man Who Loves Peace so Much That He Is Willing to Fight for It!" Trippy, indeed.

Academics will likely argue to the end of time about what constitutes the symbolic beginning of the 1960s. The cultural upheaval of that era was unprecedented and the transformation that took place in America was nothing short of world-changing, giving the age a mythical quality. One could surmise the assassination of President Kennedy ignited the revolution, or maybe it was the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or the arrival of The Beatles at JFK Airport in 1964, or even the Merry Pranksters embarking on their first road trip. Certainly the advent of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) as a recreational drug, opening the "doors of perception" for millions of "mind-space" explorers, had an impact, and the seismic epicenter of the "turn on, tune in, drop out" movement was—yep, you guessed it—San Francisco.

The emblematic end of the "Swingin' Sixties" is equally debatable. The violence at Altamont, the Kent State shootings, the Fab Four's breakup, Watergate and President Nixon's resignation in '74, or the Vietnam War's end the following year—all are milestones of cultural change. For many, the symbolic close of the '60s was the end of optimism and the start of a long, meandering decline into a national of cynics. We came a long way, baby.

Gerber's Angar the Screamer, who arrived just as the Watergate scandal was beginning to decimate public faith in high office, is representational of that frustration—and epitomizes the same contradiction of those seeking peaceful solutions by employing violent means, be they Ohio National Guardsmen or the Weather Underground. Plus the over-arching storyline, an ongoing conspiracy involving law firm associates and an interplanetary seeker of vengeance, suits the paranoid mood so prevalent then (as now!). Whether the writer is successful in exploring the end of that golden age in the milieu of super heroes can be disputed, but the fact that Gerber had the creativity to explore important societal themes placed him in the top berth of talents in mainstream American comics.

(One wonders if the villain—oddly deemed by Matthew Murdock, esq., as "very likeable, actually"—was conceived with psychotherapist Arthur Janov's "primal therapy" in mind, a treatment then all the (ahem) rage in California's New Age scene, one popularized by Janov's book, *The Primal Scream*. Based in part on patients releasing repressed pain of childhood trauma through emphatic shouting, adherents included John Lennon and Yoko Ono, as well as actor James Earl Jones. The procedure was not without controversy.)

Another innovative creator of that time was James Patrick Starlin, late of the U.S. Navy, who arrived at the House of Ideas like an interstellar comet, imbuing Captain Marvel with "cosmic awareness" and surreptitiously introducing into the pages of *Iron Man* Thanos, the Mad Titan, perhaps the greatest villain ever in the Marvel universe. So, too, did Starlin employ, with Gerber's dialogue assist, a portion of *Daredevil* #105 to sneak in the origin of another player in his celestial opus. Formerly known as (ahem) Madame MacEvil, Moondragon is a bald, scantily-clad, and somewhat scatter-brained villain-slash-hero, one who never quite gained the same footing in the comics as her great nemesis, Thanos.

There's a shoehorn aspect, if you will, to the injection of cosmic themes in *Daredevil*, starring a city-based character unaccustomed to space-borne adventure. Moondragon is hinted to be a new romantic interest for Matt Murdock, as the Black Widow is nudged further offstage. (When asked by *manwithfear.com* about the value of Natasha in the book, Gerber said, "If I recall, Black Widow also *left* during my run on the comic. And I have to say, in all honesty, I didn't miss her. I think Daredevil works better as a loner.") Born Heather Douglas, Moondragon would leave *Daredevil* to be extensively used by Steve Englehart in *The Avengers*' complex "Mantis" storyline, but not before bestowing to ol' Hornhead the gift of sight. It took a mere seven pages in *DD* #107 for the hero to ask for his blindness to be returned. As the writer shared, Daredevil works better in the dark and alone.

It's hard to surmise if Gerber enjoyed his 20-issue tenure on the comic book, but he did start to polish his writing chops and began exploring relevant themes well beyond the typical comic-book realm. In *Daredevil*, we find a wordsmith beginning to find an original voice and his work on the Man Without Fear is just wild and weird enough to be enjoyed as true artifacts of a medium that was trying to grow up and have a say in this strange and wondrous world.

2015

Jon B. Cooke is the editor of Comic Book Creator *magazine (published by TwoMorrows), a five-time Eisner award-winner, and writer/producer of the feature-length film documentary,* Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist. *He recently produced three critically lauded issues of* ACE: All Comics Evaluated *magazine, a substantial biographical essay on artist Sam J. Glanzman for* The Complete U.S.S. Stevens *collection (Dover), and is author of* The Art of Mike Ploog *(FPG). He lives in Rhode Island with his wife, Beth, "near the beach," as they say 'round here.*

DAREDEVIL
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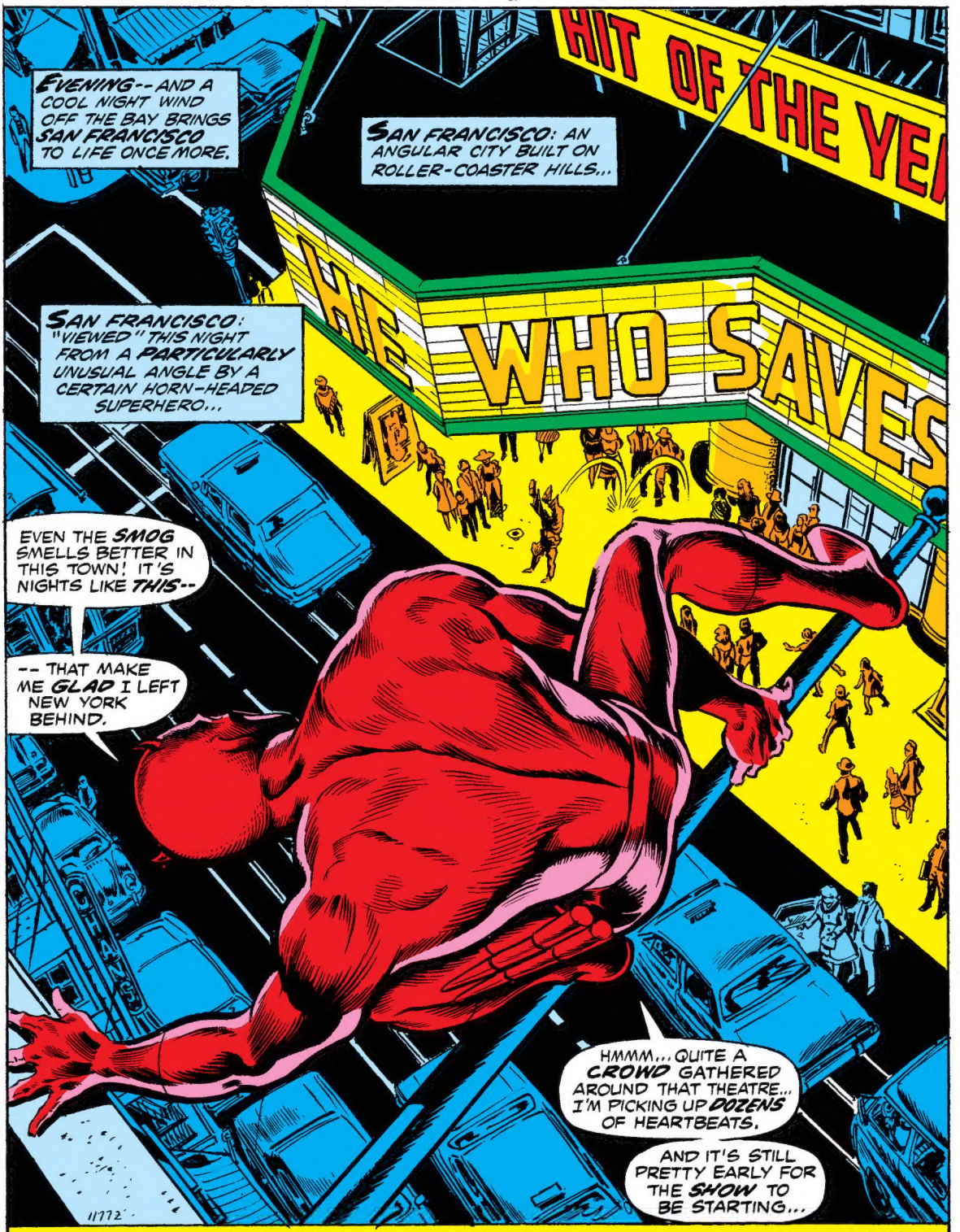
02459
DAREDEVIL®
AND THE
BLACK WIDOW™
STRIKE AS YOU WILL, DAREDEVIL-- YOU CANNOT HARM ME!
FOR, I AM-- THE DARK MESSIAH!

Stan Lee presents: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™


EVENING -- AND A COOL NIGHT WIND OFF THE BAY BRINGS SAN FRANCISCO TO LIFE ONCE MORE.
SAN FRANCISCO: AN ANGULAR CITY BUILT ON ROLLER-COASTER HILLS...
HIT OF THE YE
HE WHO SAVES
SAN FRANCISCO: "VIEWED" THIS NIGHT FROM A PARTICULARLY UNUSUAL ANGLE BY A CERTAIN HORN-HEADED SUPERHERO...
EVEN THE SMOG SMELLS BETTER IN THIS TOWN! IT'S NIGHTS LIKE THIS--
-- THAT MAKE ME GLAD I LEFT NEW YORK BEHIND.
HMMM... QUITE A CROWD GATHERED AROUND THAT THEATRE... I'M PICKING UP DOZENS OF HEARTBEATS.
AND IT'S STILL PRETTY EARLY FOR THE SHOW TO BE STARTING...
11772

GERRY CONWAY / PLOT | STEVE GERBER / SCRIPT | GENE COLAN / ART | ERNIE CHUA / INKS | JOHN COSTANZA / LETTERING | ROY THOMAS, / EDITOR

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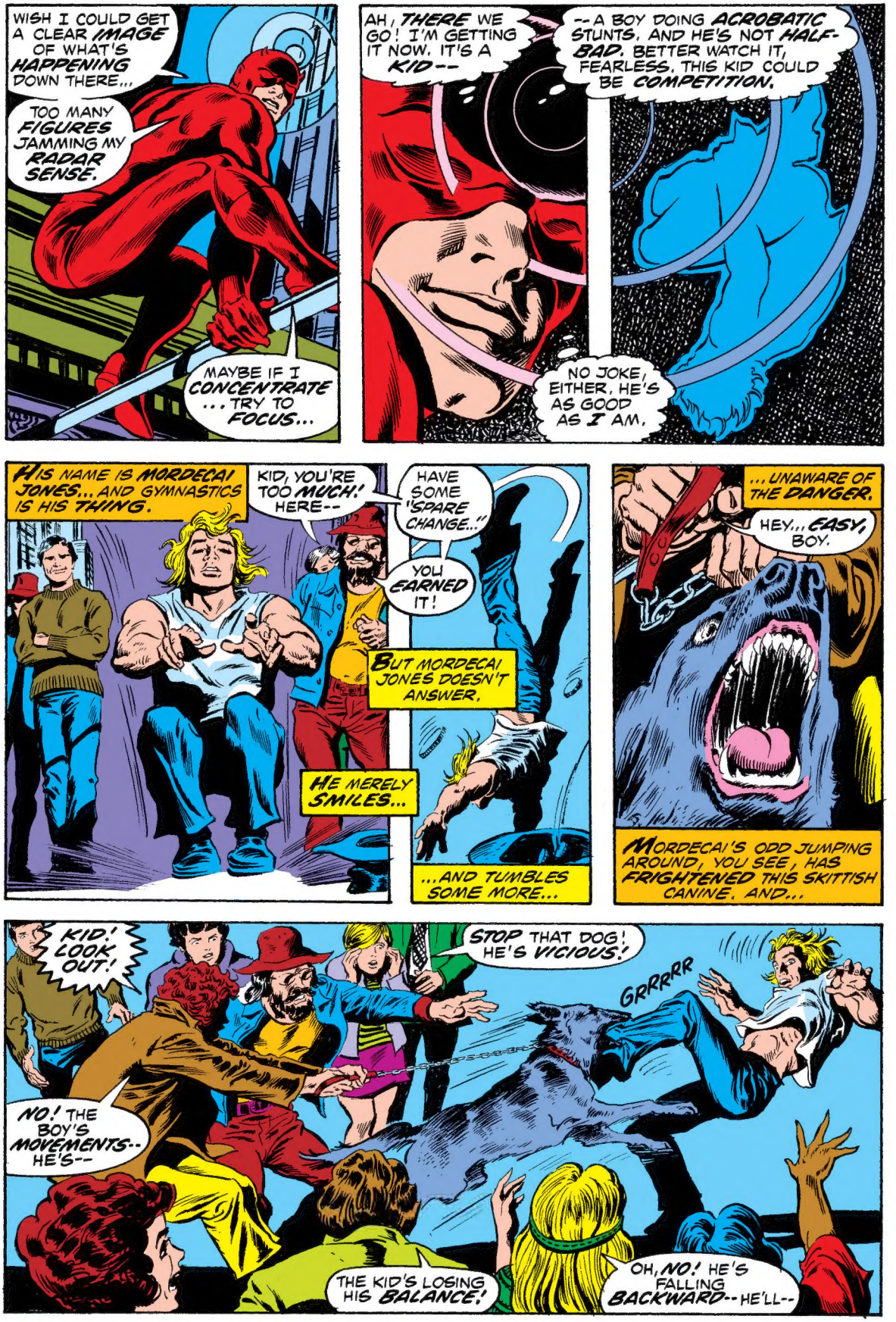
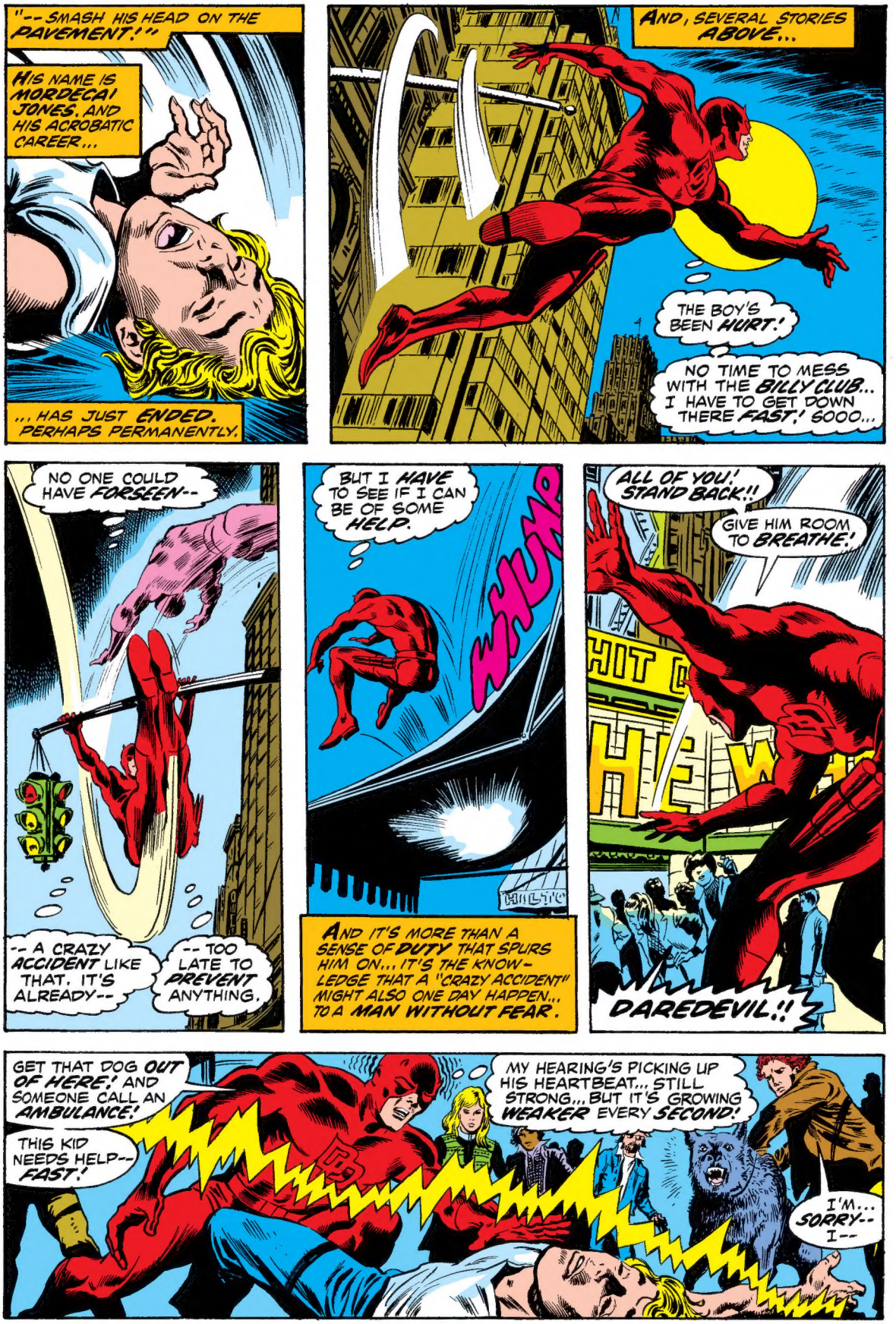
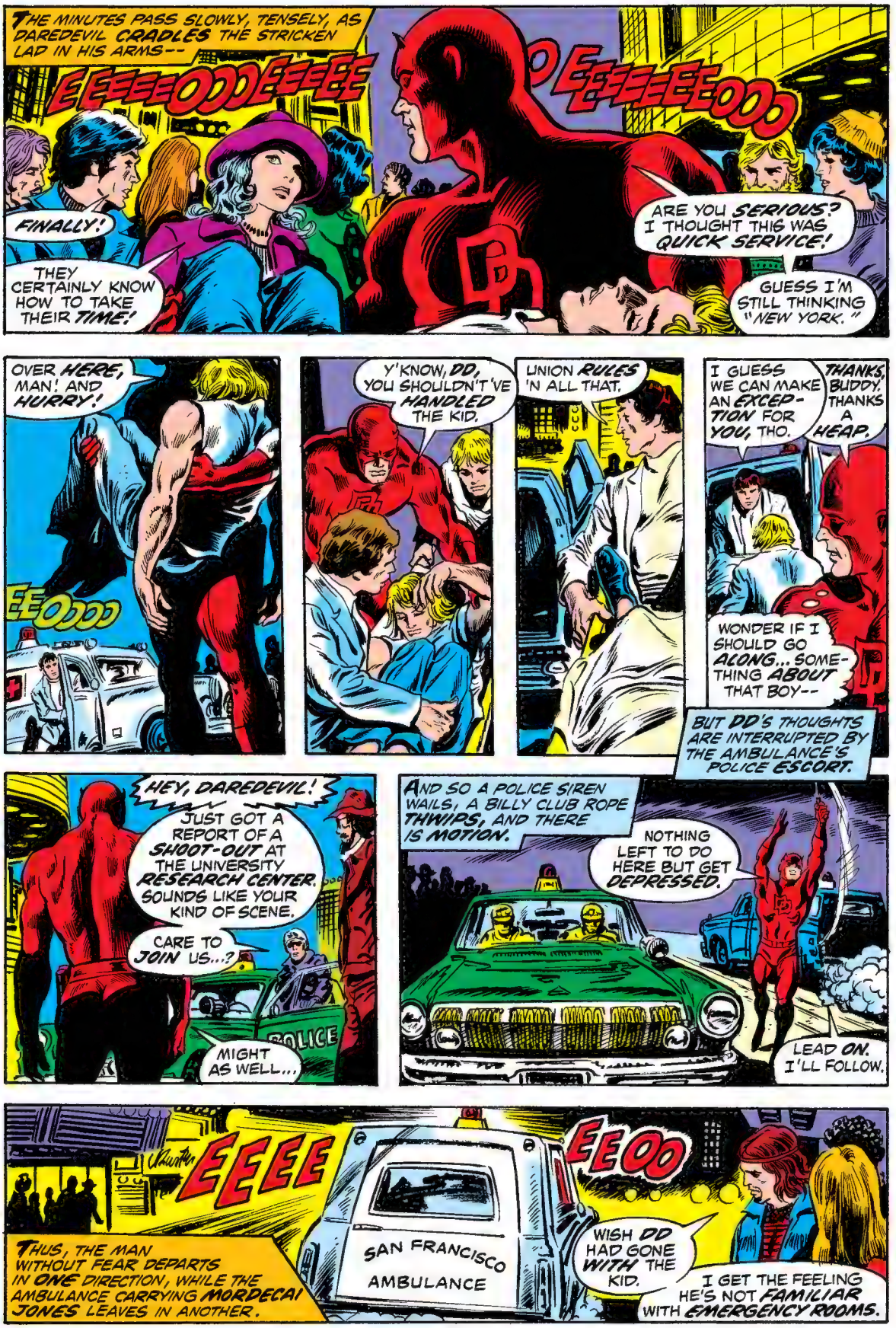
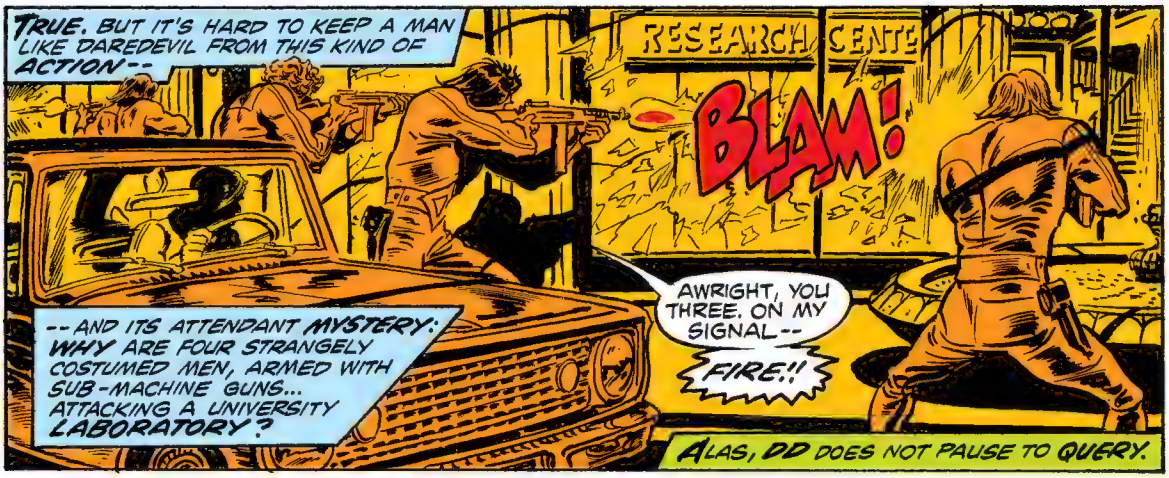
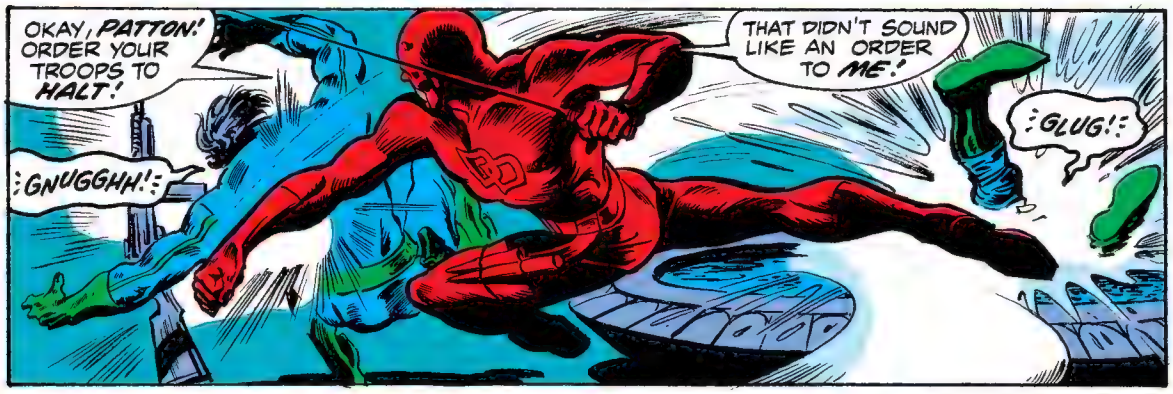
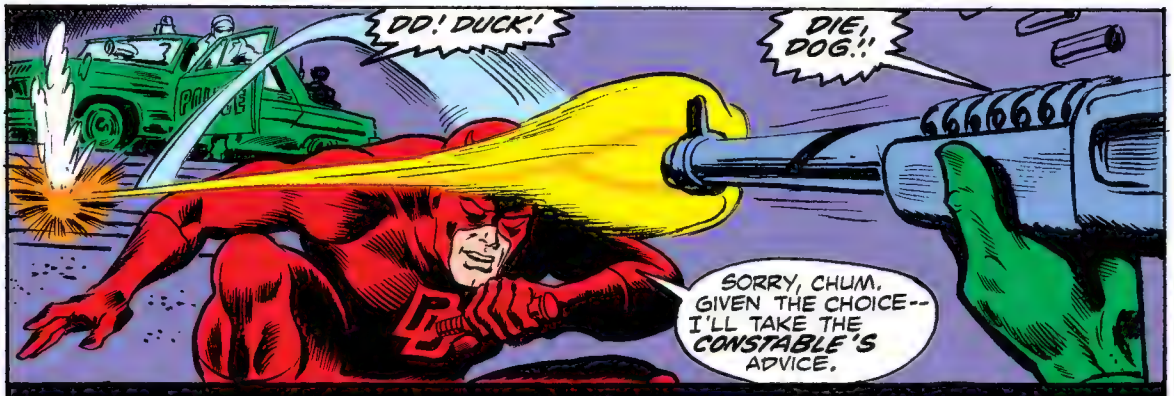

WISH I COULD GET A CLEAR IMAGE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE...
TOO MANY FIGURES JAMMING MY RADAR SENSE.
MAYBE IF I CONCENTRATE ...TRY TO FOCUS...
AH, THERE WE GO! I'M GETTING IT NOW. IT'S A KID--
--A BOY DOING ACROBATIC STUNTS, AND HE'S NOT HALF-BAD. BETTER WATCH IT, FEARLESS. THIS KID COULD BE COMPETITION.
NO JOKE, EITHER. HE'S AS GOOD AS I AM.
HIS NAME IS MORDECAI JONES... AND GYMNASTICS IS HIS THING.
KID, YOU'RE TOO MUCH! HERE--
HAVE SOME "SPARE CHANGE..."
YOU EARNED IT!
BUT MORDECAI JONES DOESN'T ANSWER.
HE MERELY SMILES...
...AND TUMBLES SOME MORE...
...UNAWARE OF THE DANGER.
HEY... EASY, BOY.
MORDECAI'S ODD JUMPING AROUND, YOU SEE, HAS FRIGHTENED THIS SKITTISH CANINE. AND...
KID! LOOK OUT!
STOP THAT DOG! HE'S VICIOUS!
GRRRRR
NO! THE BOY'S MOVEMENTS-- HE'S--
THE KID'S LOSING HIS BALANCE!
OH, NO! HE'S FALLING BACKWARD-- HE'LL--

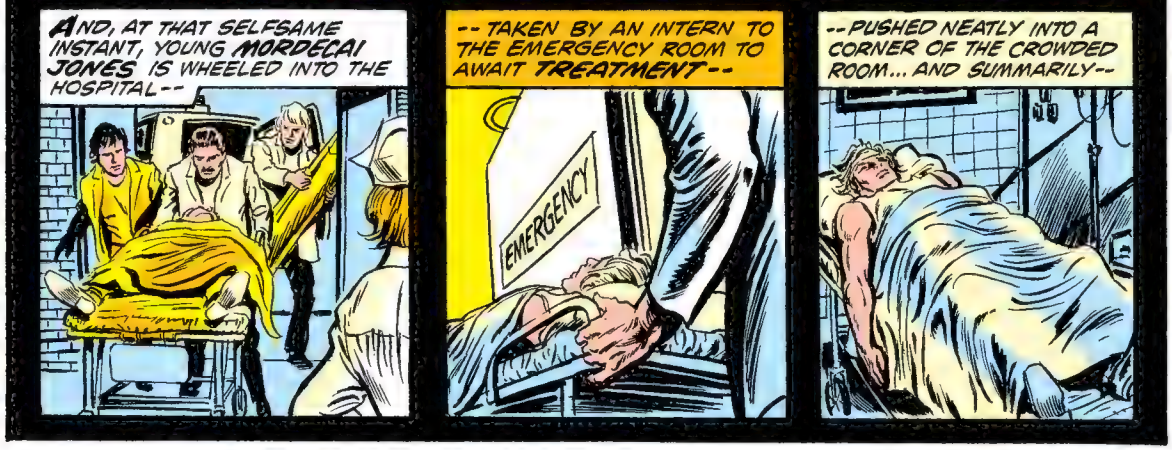

"--SMASH HIS HEAD ON THE PAVEMENT!"
HIS NAME IS MORDECAI JONES. AND HIS ACROBATIC CAREER...
...HAS JUST ENDED. PERHAPS PERMANENTLY.
AND, SEVERAL STORIES ABOVE...
THE BOY'S BEEN HURT!
NO TIME TO MESS WITH THE BILLY CLUB... I HAVE TO GET DOWN THERE FAST! SOOO...
NO ONE COULD HAVE FORSEEN--
--A CRAZY ACCIDENT LIKE THAT. IT'S ALREADY--
--TOO LATE TO PREVENT ANYTHING.
BUT I HAVE TO SEE IF I CAN BE OF SOME HELP.
WHUMP
AND IT'S MORE THAN A SENSE OF DUTY THAT SPURS HIM ON... IT'S THE KNOWLEDGE THAT A "CRAZY ACCIDENT" MIGHT ALSO ONE DAY HAPPEN... TO A MAN WITHOUT FEAR.
ALL OF YOU! STAND BACK!!
GIVE HIM ROOM TO BREATHE!
DAREDEVIL!!
GET THAT DOG OUT OF HERE! AND SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!
THIS KID NEEDS HELP-- FAST!
MY HEARING'S PICKING UP HIS HEARTBEAT... STILL STRONG... BUT IT'S GROWING WEAKER EVERY SECOND!
I'M... SORRY-- I--

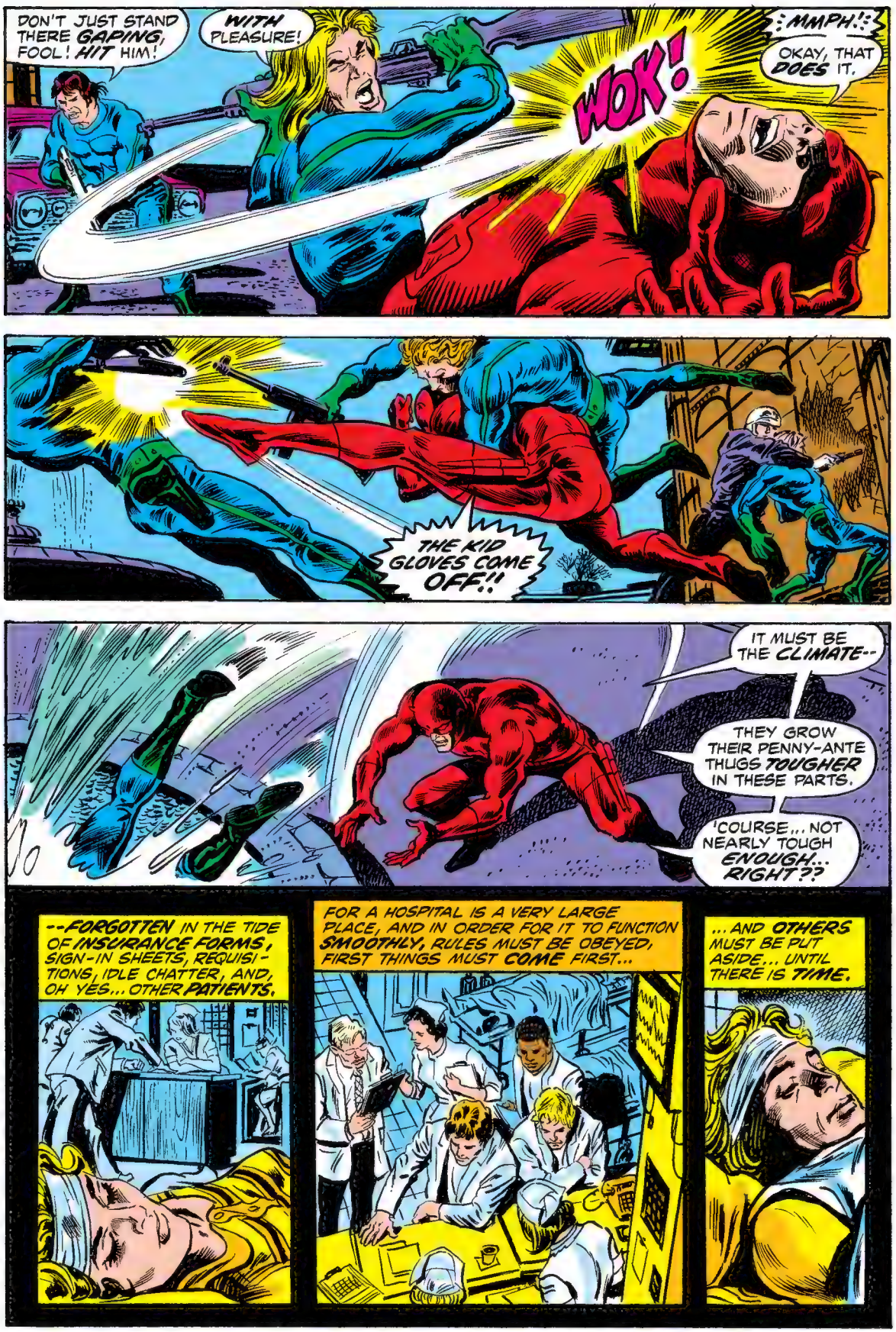

THE MINUTES PASS SLOWLY, TENSELY, AS DAREDEVIL CRADLES THE STRICKEN LAD IN HIS ARMS--
EEEEEEOOOEEEEEE
EEEEEEEOOO
FINALLY!
THEY CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO TAKE THEIR TIME!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? I THOUGHT THIS WAS QUICK SERVICE!
GUESS I'M STILL THINKING "NEW YORK."
OVER HERE, MAN! AND HURRY!
EEOOOO
Y'KNOW, DD, YOU SHOULDN'T'VE HANDLED THE KID.
UNION RULES 'N ALL THAT.
I GUESS WE CAN MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU, THO.
THANKS, BUDDY. THANKS A HEAP.
WONDER IF I SHOULD GO ALONG... SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BOY--
BUT DD'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY THE AMBULANCE'S POLICE ESCORT.
HEY, DAREDEVIL! JUST GOT A REPORT OF A SHOOT-OUT AT THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER. SOUNDS LIKE YOUR KIND OF SCENE.
CARE TO JOIN US...?
POLICE
MIGHT AS WELL...
AND SO A POLICE SIREN WAILS, A BILLY CLUB ROPE THWIPS, AND THERE IS MOTION.
NOTHING LEFT TO DO HERE BUT GET DEPRESSED.
LEAD ON. I'LL FOLLOW.
EEEE
EEOO
THUS, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR DEPARTS IN ONE DIRECTION, WHILE THE AMBULANCE CARRYING MORDECAI JONES LEAVES IN ANOTHER.
SAN FRANCISCO AMBULANCE
WISH DD HAD GONE WITH THE KID.
I GET THE FEELING HE'S NOT FAMILIAR WITH EMERGENCY ROOMS.

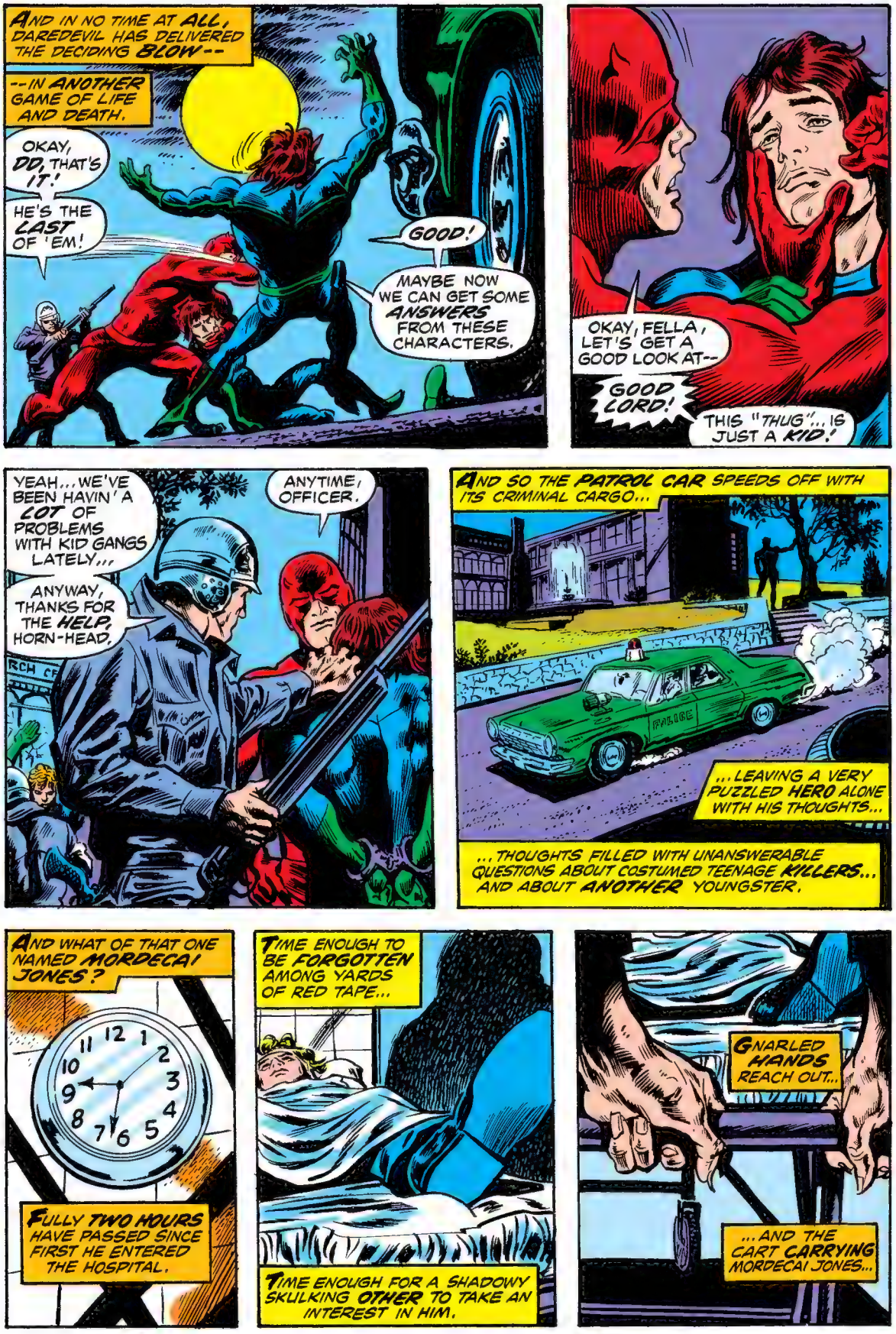

TRUE. BUT IT'S HARD TO KEEP A MAN LIKE DAREDEVIL FROM THIS KIND OF ACTION--
RESEARCH CENTE
BLAM!
AWRIGHT, YOU THREE. ON MY SIGNAL--
FIRE!!
--AND ITS ATTENDANT MYSTERY: WHY ARE FOUR STRANGELY COSTUMED MEN, ARMED WITH SUB-MACHINE GUNS... ATTACKING A UNIVERSITY LABORATORY?
ALAS, DD DOES NOT PAUSE TO QUERY.


OKAY, PATTON! ORDER YOUR TROOPS TO HALT!
:GNUGGHH!:
THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE AN ORDER TO ME!
:GLUG!:

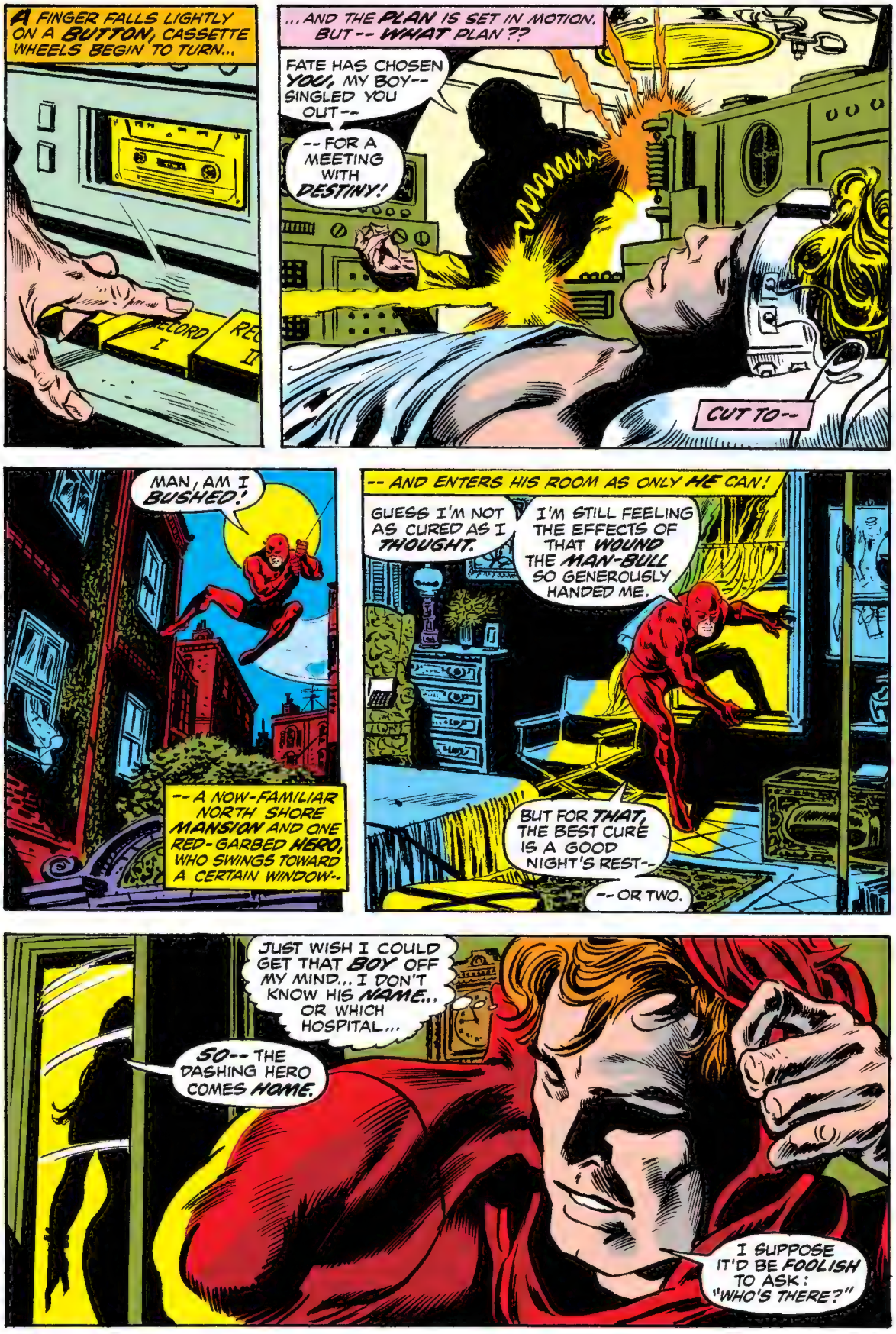

DD! DUCK!
DIE, DOG!!
SORRY, CHUM. GIVEN THE CHOICE-- I'LL TAKE THE CONSTABLE'S ADVICE.

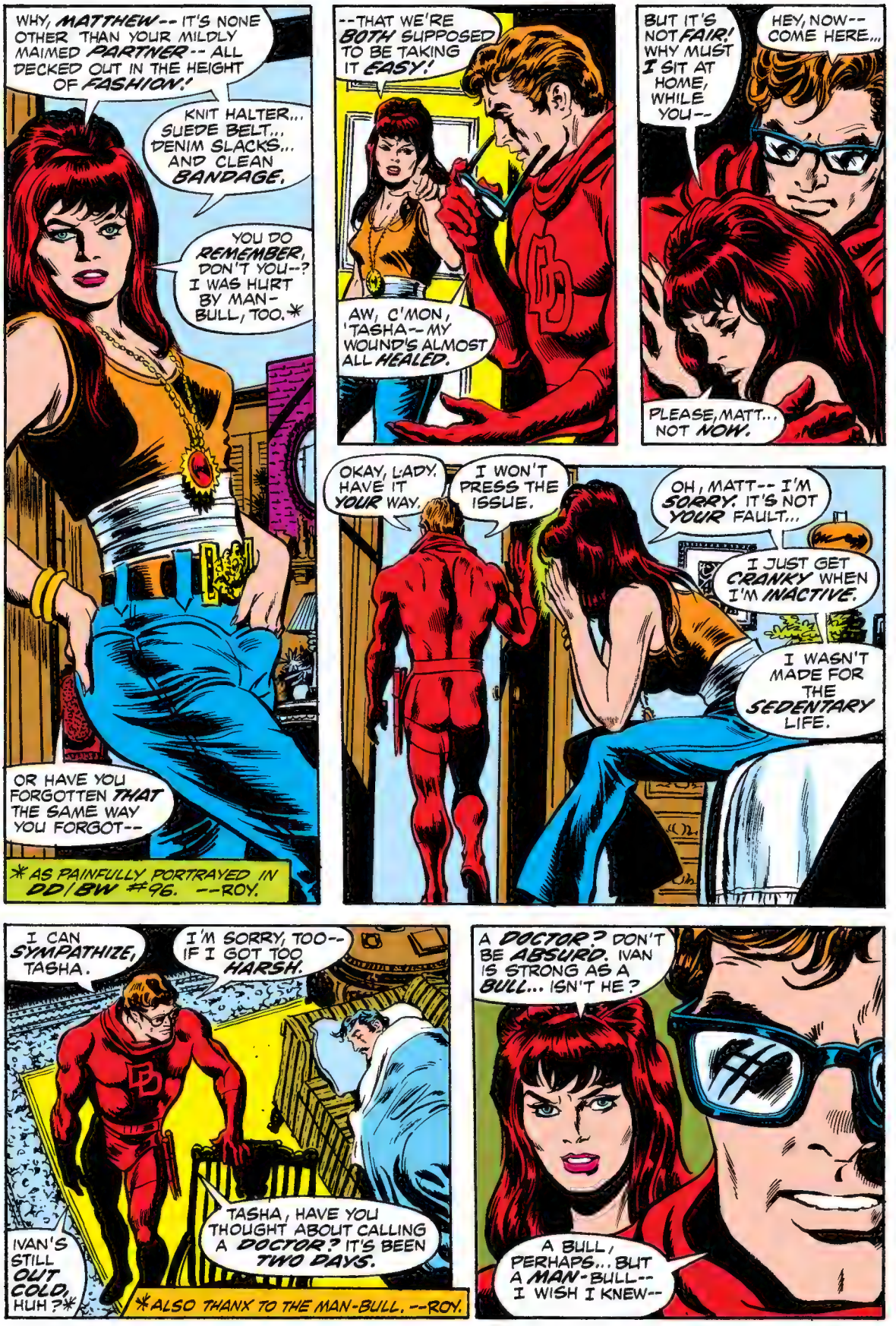

AND, AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, YOUNG MORDECAI JONES IS WHEELED INTO THE HOSPITAL--
--TAKEN BY AN INTERN TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM TO AWAIT TREATMENT--
EMERGENCY
--PUSHED NEATLY INTO A CORNER OF THE CROWDED ROOM... AND SUMMARILY--

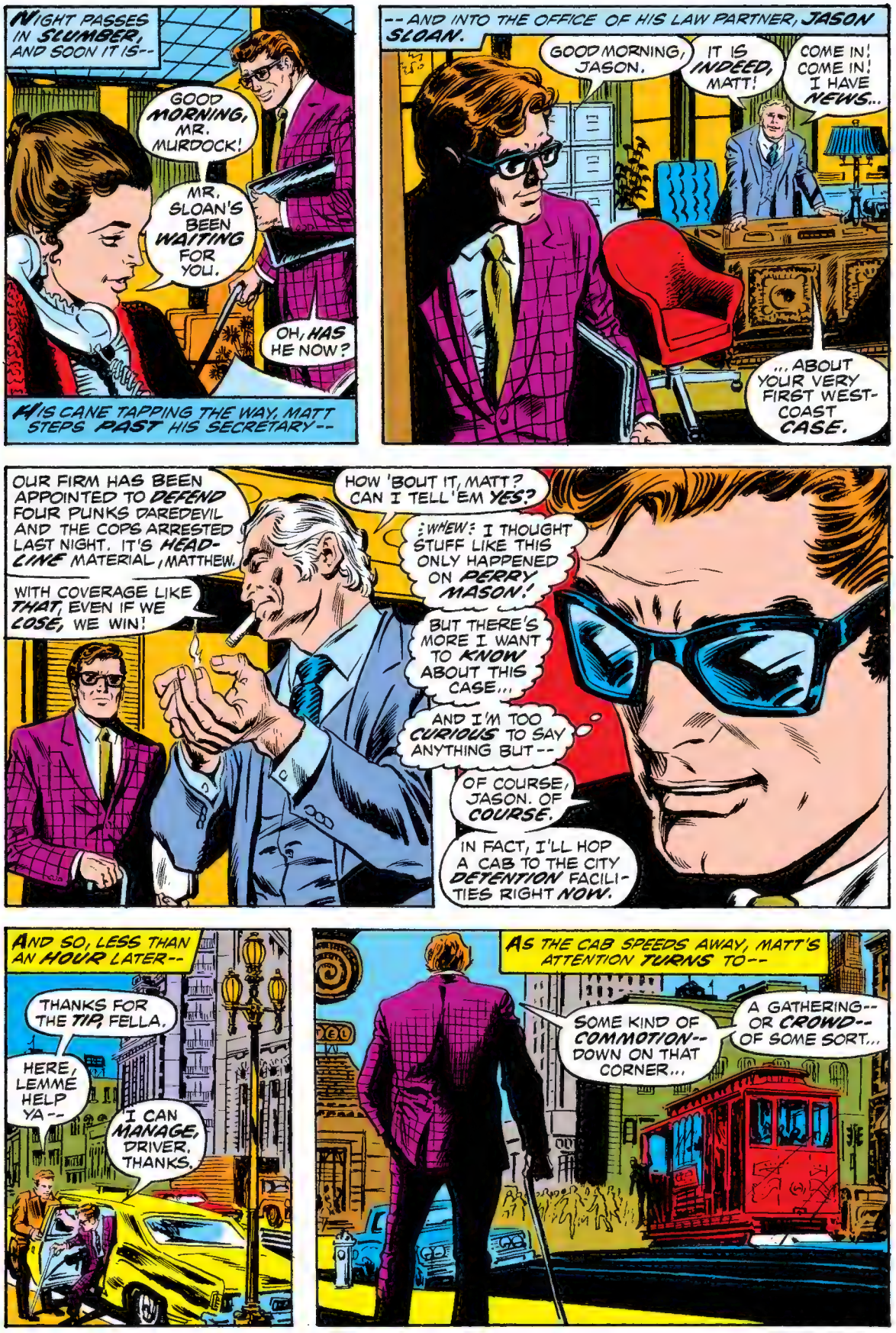

DON'T JUST STAND THERE GAPING, FOOL! HIT HIM!
WITH PLEASURE!
WOK!
:MMPH!:
OKAY, THAT DOES IT.
THE KID GLOVES COME OFF!!
IT MUST BE THE CLIMATE--
THEY GROW THEIR PENNY-ANTE THUGS TOUGHER IN THESE PARTS.
'COURSE... NOT NEARLY TOUGH ENOUGH... RIGHT??
--FORGOTTEN IN THE TIDE OF INSURANCE FORMS, SIGN-IN SHEETS, REQUISITIONS, IDLE CHATTER, AND, OH YES... OTHER PATIENTS.
FOR A HOSPITAL IS A VERY LARGE PLACE, AND IN ORDER FOR IT TO FUNCTION SMOOTHLY, RULES MUST BE OBEYED, FIRST THINGS MUST COME FIRST...
... AND OTHERS MUST BE PUT ASIDE... UNTIL THERE IS TIME.


AND IN NO TIME AT ALL, DAREDEVIL HAS DELIVERED THE DECIDING BLOW--
--IN ANOTHER GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH.
OKAY, DD, THAT'S IT!
HE'S THE LAST OF 'EM!
GOOD!
MAYBE NOW WE CAN GET SOME ANSWERS FROM THESE CHARACTERS.
OKAY, FELLA, LET'S GET A GOOD LOOK AT--
GOOD LORD!
THIS "THUG"... IS JUST A KID!
YEAH... WE'VE BEEN HAVIN' A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH KID GANGS LATELY...
ANYTIME, OFFICER.
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE HELP, HORN-HEAD.
AND SO THE PATROL CAR SPEEDS OFF WITH ITS CRIMINAL CARGO...
POLICE
...LEAVING A VERY PUZZLED HERO ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS...
...THOUGHTS FILLED WITH UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS ABOUT COSTUMED TEENAGE KILLERS... AND ABOUT ANOTHER YOUNGSTER.
AND WHAT OF THAT ONE NAMED MORDECAI JONES?
FULLY TWO HOURS HAVE PASSED SINCE FIRST HE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL.
TIME ENOUGH TO BE FORGOTTEN AMONG YARDS OF RED TAPE...
TIME ENOUGH FOR A SHADOWY SKULKING OTHER TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN HIM.
GNARLED HANDS REACH OUT...
...AND THE CART CARRYING MORDECAI JONES...

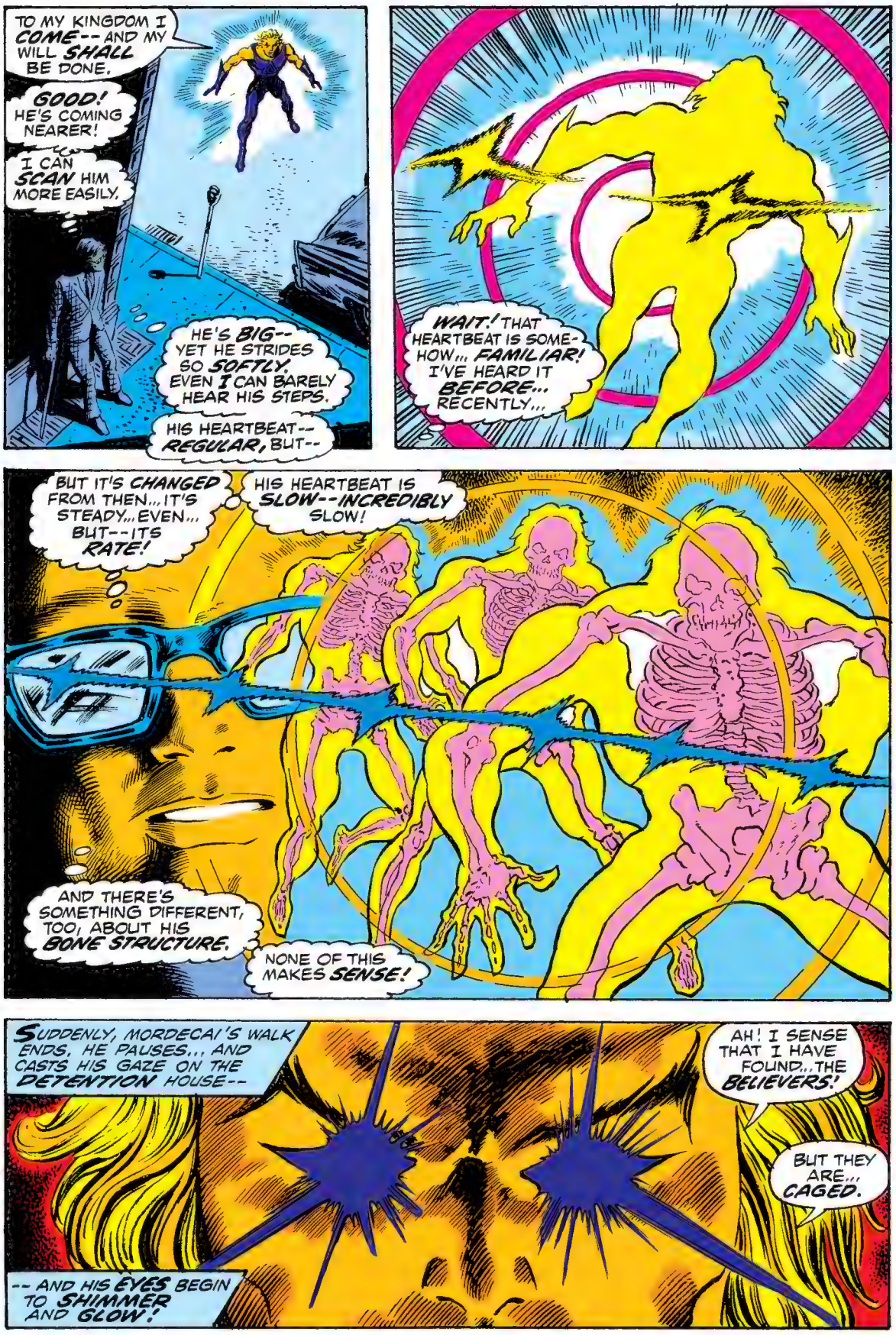
...IS WHEELED AWAY DOWN A DARKENED CORRIDOR...
...UNNOTICED BY THOSE WHO SHOULD'VE CARED, SHOULD'VE MINISTERED TO HIS NEEDS.
UNNOTICED BY ANGELS OF MERCY-TURNED-FILE CLERKS.
AND NOW HE LIES HERE.
IN A TINY, DIMLY-LIT CUBICLE, PERHAPS ONCE A BROOM CLOSET--BUT NO MORE. NOW IT HOUSES A COMPLEX OF CYBERNETIC CIRCUITRY.
...OPERATED BY A MAN MORDECAI COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND...
MACHINES WHICH THE UNCOMPLICATED MIND OF MORDECAI JONES COULD NEVER COMPREHEND...
...A MAN WHOSE AGED, BONY HANDS WORK SWIFTLY, FASTENING AN INSULATED BAND, STUDDED WITH ELECTRODES, TO THE BOY'S HEAD.

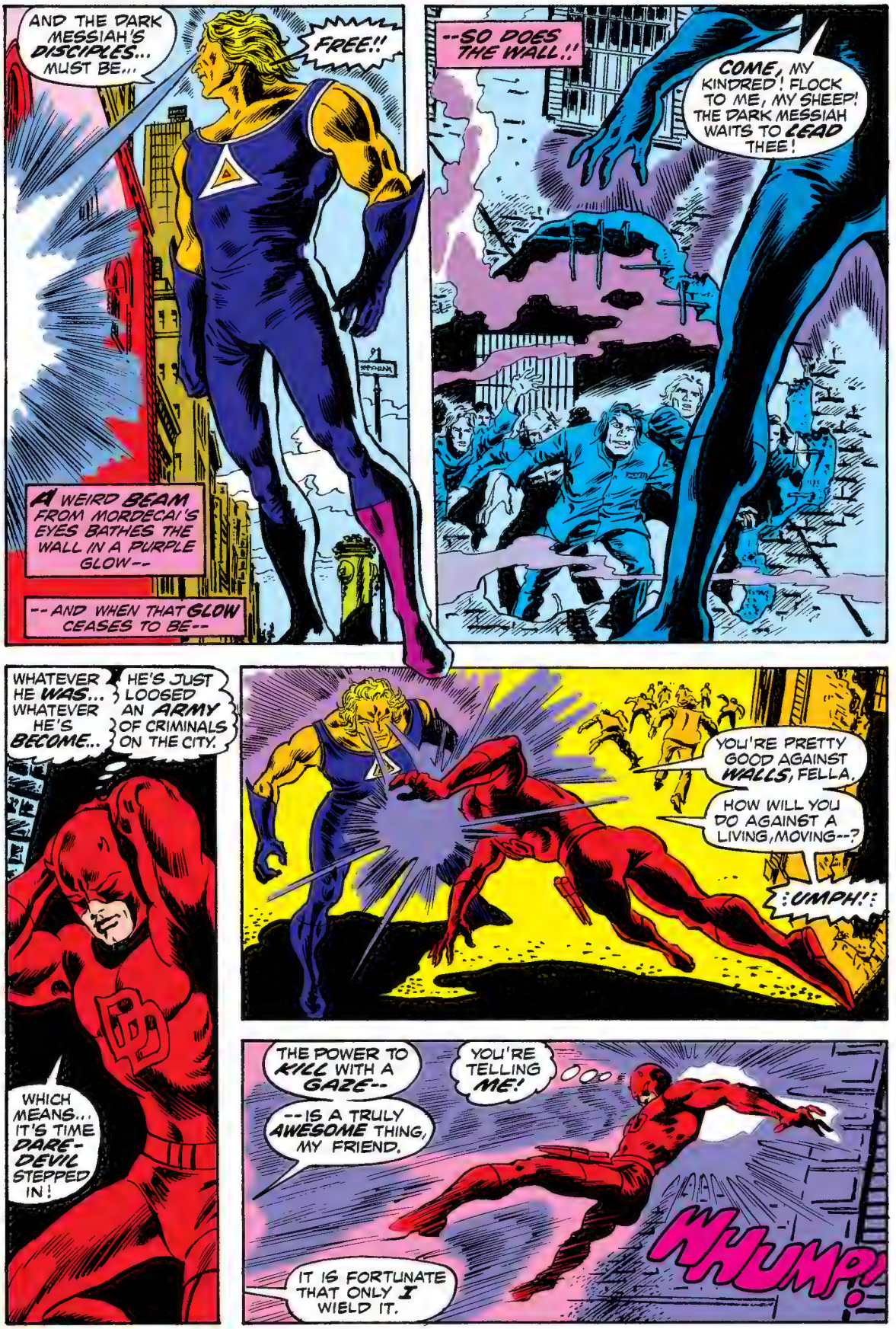

A FINGER FALLS LIGHTLY ON A BUTTON, CASSETTE WHEELS BEGIN TO TURN...
RECORD I
REC II
...AND THE PLAN IS SET IN MOTION. BUT-- WHAT PLAN ??
FATE HAS CHOSEN YOU, MY BOY-- SINGLED YOU OUT--
--FOR A MEETING WITH DESTINY!
CUT TO--
MAN, AM I BUSHED!
--A NOW-FAMILIAR NORTH SHORE MANSION AND ONE RED-GARBED HERO, WHO SWINGS TOWARD A CERTAIN WINDOW--
--AND ENTERS HIS ROOM AS ONLY HE CAN!
GUESS I'M NOT AS CURED AS I THOUGHT.
I'M STILL FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THAT WOUND THE MAN-BULL SO GENEROUSLY HANDED ME.
BUT FOR THAT, THE BEST CURE IS A GOOD NIGHT'S REST--
--OR TWO.
JUST WISH I COULD GET THAT BOY OFF MY MIND... I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME... OR WHICH HOSPITAL...
SO-- THE DASHING HERO COMES HOME.
I SUPPOSE IT'D BE FOOLISH TO ASK: "WHO'S THERE?"

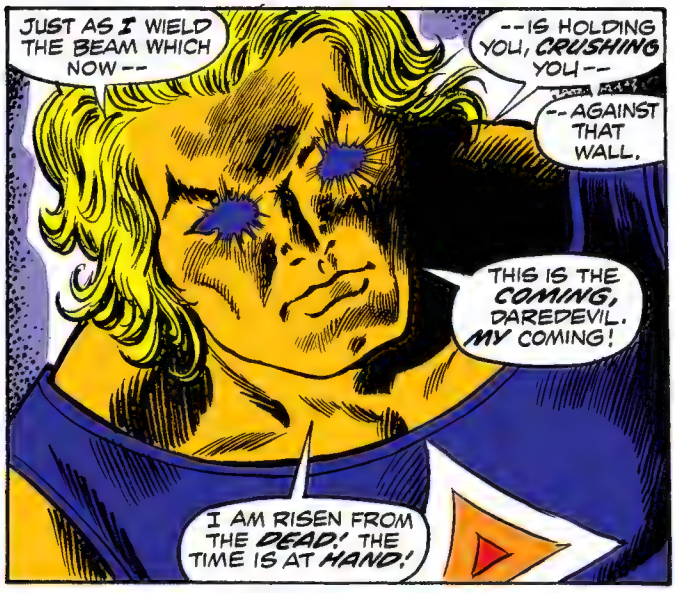

WHY, MATTHEW-- IT'S NONE OTHER THAN YOUR MILDLY MAIMED PARTNER-- ALL DECKED OUT IN THE HEIGHT OF FASHION!
KNIT HALTER... SUEDE BELT... DENIM SLACKS... AND CLEAN BANDAGE.
YOU DO REMEMBER, DON'T YOU--? I WAS HURT BY MAN-BULL, TOO.*
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THE SAME WAY YOU FORGOT--
*AS PAINFULLY PORTRAYED IN DD/BW #96. --ROY.
--THAT WE'RE BOTH SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING IT EASY!
AW, C'MON, 'TASHA-- MY WOUND'S ALMOST ALL HEALED.
BUT IT'S NOT FAIR! WHY MUST I SIT AT HOME, WHILE YOU--
HEY, NOW-- COME HERE...
PLEASE, MATT... NOT NOW.
OKAY, LADY. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
I WON'T PRESS THE ISSUE.
OH, MATT-- I'M SORRY. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
I JUST GET CRANKY WHEN I'M INACTIVE.
I WASN'T MADE FOR THE SEDENTARY LIFE.
I CAN SYMPATHIZE, TASHA.
I'M SORRY, TOO-- IF I GOT TOO HARSH.
TASHA, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT CALLING A DOCTOR? IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS.
IVAN'S STILL OUT COLD, HUH?*
*ALSO THANX TO THE MAN-BULL. --ROY.
A DOCTOR? DON'T BE ABSURD. IVAN IS STRONG AS A BULL... ISN'T HE?
A BULL, PERHAPS... BUT A MAN-BULL-- I WISH I KNEW--

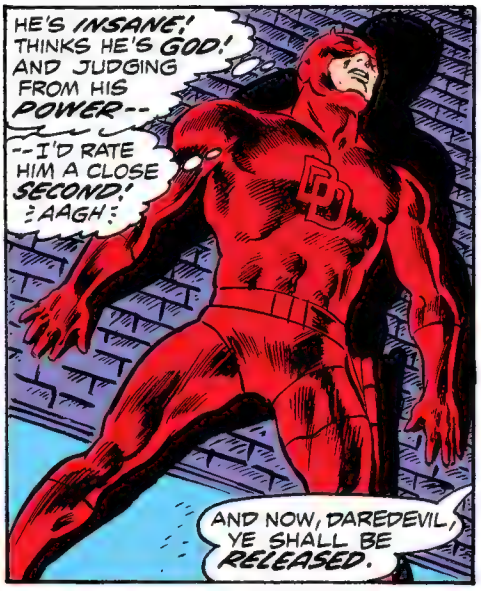

NIGHT PASSES IN SLUMBER, AND SOON IT IS--
GOOD MORNING, MR. MURDOCK!
MR. SLOAN'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
OH, HAS HE NOW?
HIS CANE TAPPING THE WAY, MATT STEPS PAST HIS SECRETARY--
--AND INTO THE OFFICE OF HIS LAW PARTNER, JASON SLOAN.
GOOD MORNING, JASON.
IT IS INDEED, MATT!
COME IN! COME IN! I HAVE NEWS...
...ABOUT YOUR VERY FIRST WEST-COAST CASE.
OUR FIRM HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO DEFEND FOUR PUNKS DAREDEVIL AND THE COPS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT. IT'S HEADLINE MATERIAL, MATTHEW.
WITH COVERAGE LIKE THAT, EVEN IF WE LOSE, WE WIN!
HOW 'BOUT IT, MATT? CAN I TELL 'EM YES?
;WHEW! I THOUGHT STUFF LIKE THIS ONLY HAPPENED ON PERRY MASON!
BUT THERE'S MORE I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE...
AND I'M TOO CURIOUS TO SAY ANYTHING BUT--
OF COURSE, JASON. OF COURSE.
IN FACT, I'LL HOP A CAB TO THE CITY DETENTION FACILITIES RIGHT NOW.
AND SO, LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER--
THANKS FOR THE TIP, FELLA.
HERE, LEMME HELP YA--
I CAN MANAGE, DRIVER. THANKS.
AS THE CAB SPEEDS AWAY, MATT'S ATTENTION TURNS TO--
SOME KIND OF COMMOTION-- DOWN ON THAT CORNER...
A GATHERING-- OR CROWD-- OF SOME SORT...

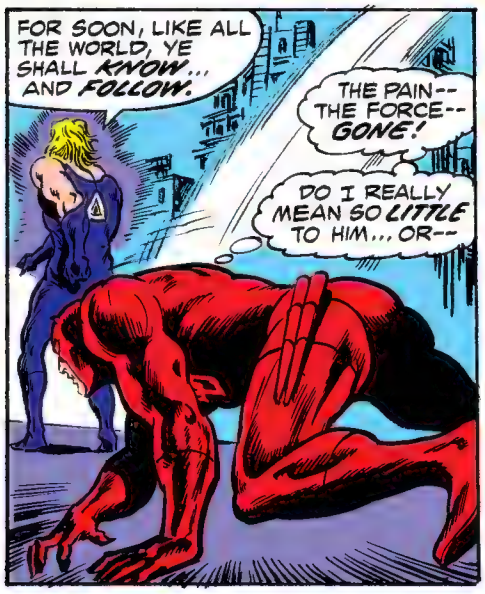
AH... THEY'RE PARTING NOW-- NO!
THOSE FOOTFALLS-- THEY'RE RUNNING-- IN FEAR--!
THERE'S CONFUSION-- THEY'RE BEING SHOVED BY SOME KIND OF FORCE OR POWER...
...AND THE SOURCE OF THAT POWER IS--
--COMING "CENTER-SCREEN" INTO MY IMAGE AREA RIGHT NOW!
GOOD LORD!! WHAT IS HE?? THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE IS OVERWHELMING MY HYPER-SENSES!
STAND YE BACK, O CROWD, OR I SHALT STRIDE ON THEE--
--AS EASILY AS I MIGHT 'PON WATER.
FOR HOLINESS RESIDES WITHIN THIS FORCEFUL FRAME!
AND WHERE I WALK, CHOIRS OF ANGELS SHALL SING HYMNS OF IT EVERAFTER!
YEA, BACK, YE MULTITUDES OR FACE THE WRATH OF--
MORDECAI JONES-- THE DARK MESSIAH!!

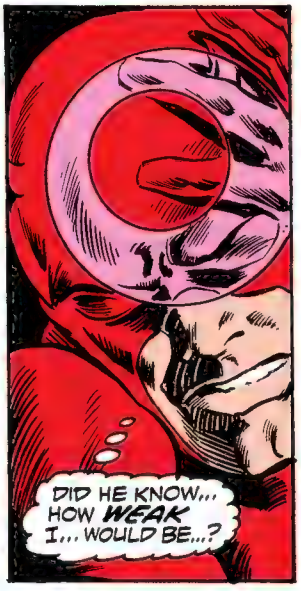

TO MY KINGDOM I COME-- AND MY WILL SHALL BE DONE.
GOOD! HE'S COMING NEARER!
I CAN SCAN HIM MORE EASILY.
HE'S BIG-- YET HE STRIDES SO SOFTLY, EVEN I CAN BARELY HEAR HIS STEPS.
HIS HEARTBEAT-- REGULAR, BUT--
WAIT! THAT HEARTBEAT IS SOME-HOW... FAMILIAR! I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE... RECENTLY...
BUT IT'S CHANGED FROM THEN... IT'S STEADY... EVEN... BUT--ITS RATE!
HIS HEARTBEAT IS SLOW--INCREDIBLY SLOW!
AND THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT, TOO, ABOUT HIS BONE STRUCTURE.
NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE!
SUDDENLY, MORDECAI'S WALK ENDS, HE PAUSES... AND CASTS HIS GAZE ON THE DETENTION HOUSE--
AH! I SENSE THAT I HAVE FOUND... THE BELIEVERS!
BUT THEY ARE... CAGED.
-- AND HIS EYES BEGIN TO SHIMMER AND GLOW!


AND THE DARK MESSIAH'S DISCIPLES... MUST BE...
FREE!!
A WEIRD BEAM FROM MORDECAI'S EYES BATHES THE WALL IN A PURPLE GLOW--
--AND WHEN THAT GLOW CEASES TO BE--
--SO DOES THE WALL!!
COME, MY KINDRED! FLOCK TO ME, MY SHEEP! THE DARK MESSIAH WAITS TO LEAD THEE!
WHATEVER HE WAS... WHATEVER HE'S BECOME...
HE'S JUST LOOSED AN ARMY OF CRIMINALS ON THE CITY.
WHICH MEANS... IT'S TIME DARE-DEVIL STEPPED IN!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AGAINST WALLS, FELLA.
HOW WILL YOU DO AGAINST A LIVING, MOVING--?
:UMPH!:
THE POWER TO KILL WITH A GAZE--
--IS A TRULY AWESOME THING, MY FRIEND.
IT IS FORTUNATE THAT ONLY I WIELD IT.
YOU'RE TELLING ME!
HHUMP!

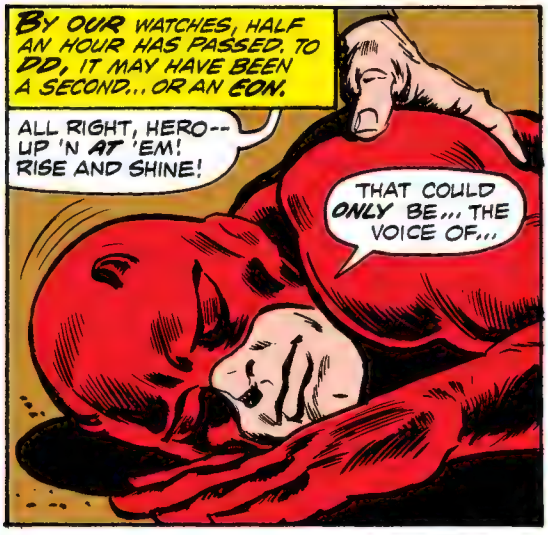

JUST AS I WIELD THE BEAM WHICH NOW--
--IS HOLDING YOU, CRUSHING YOU--
--AGAINST THAT WALL.
THIS IS THE COMING, DAREDEVIL. MY COMING!
I AM RISEN FROM THE DEAD! THE TIME IS AT HAND!

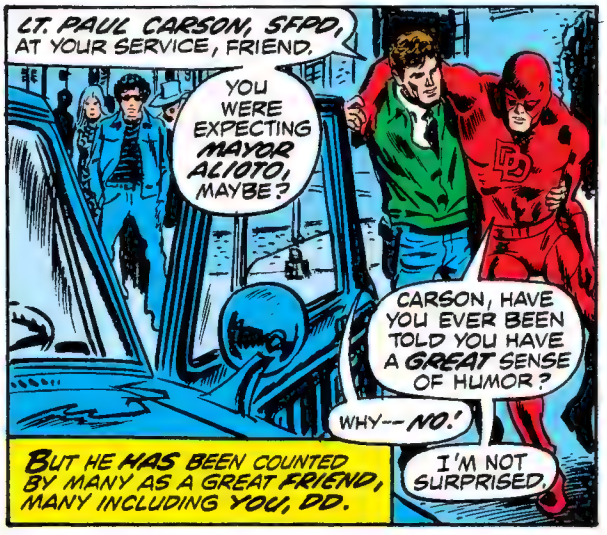

HE'S INSANE! THINKS HE'S GOD! AND JUDGING FROM HIS POWER--
--I'D RATE HIM A CLOSE SECOND! :AAGH:
AND NOW, DAREDEVIL, YE SHALL BE RELEASED.

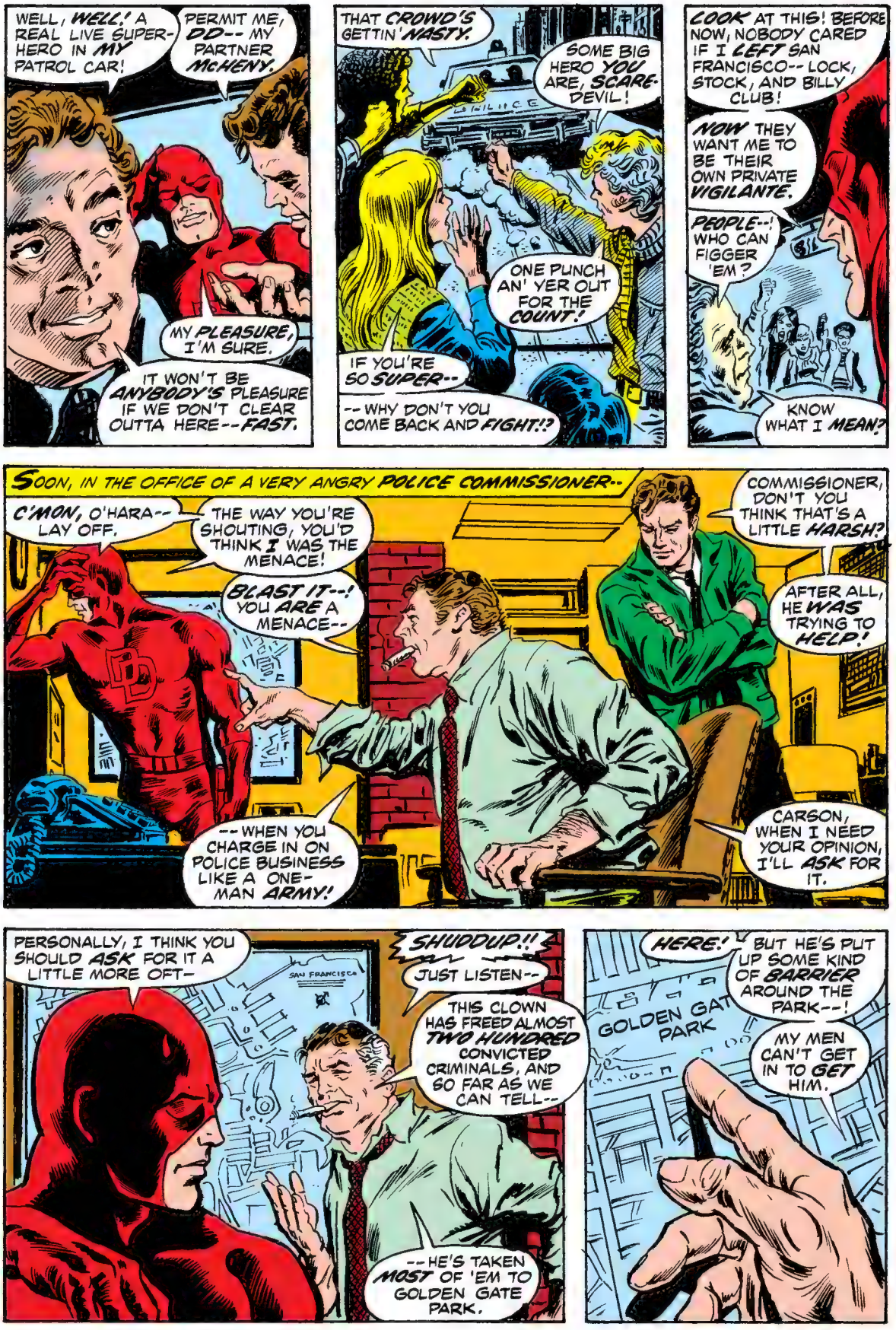

FOR SOON, LIKE ALL THE WORLD, YE SHALL KNOW... AND FOLLOW.
THE PAIN-- THE FORCE-- GONE!
DO I REALLY MEAN SO LITTLE TO HIM... OR--


DID HE KNOW... HOW WEAK I... WOULD BE...?

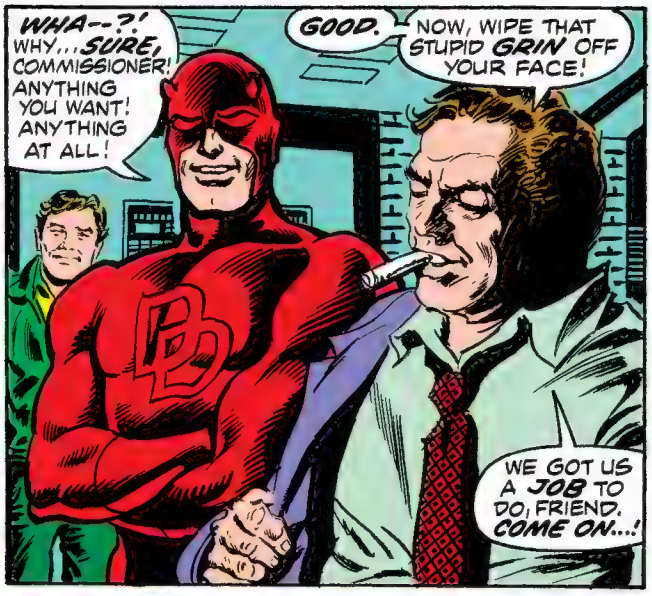
...THAT THE LAST THING... I WOULD SEE... WOULD BE HIM... BEFORE I... BLACK OOOOOOUT...

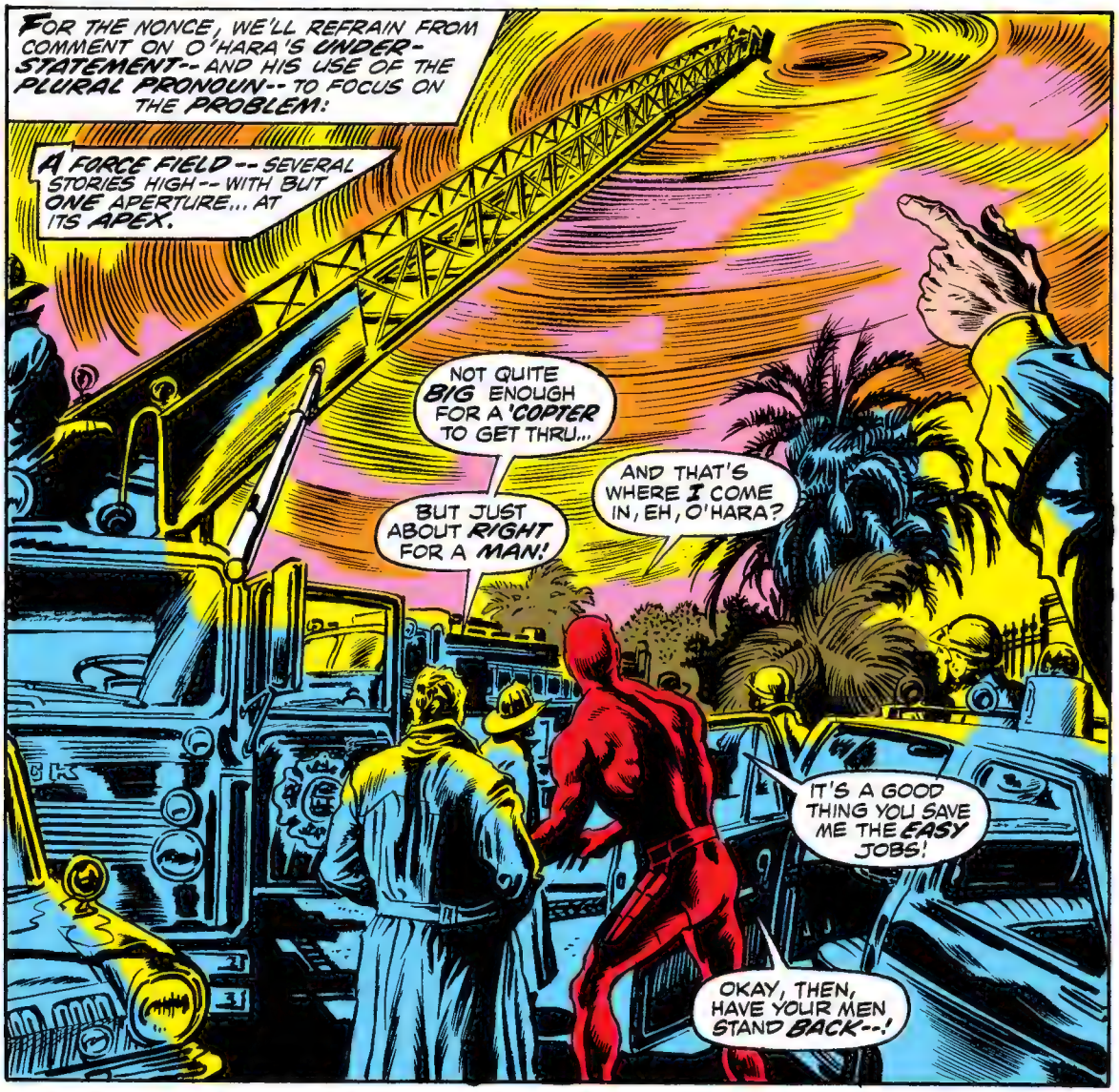

BY OUR WATCHES, HALF AN HOUR HAS PASSED. TO DD, IT MAY HAVE BEEN A SECOND... OR AN EON.
ALL RIGHT, HERO-- UP 'N AT 'EM! RISE AND SHINE!
THAT COULD ONLY BE... THE VOICE OF...

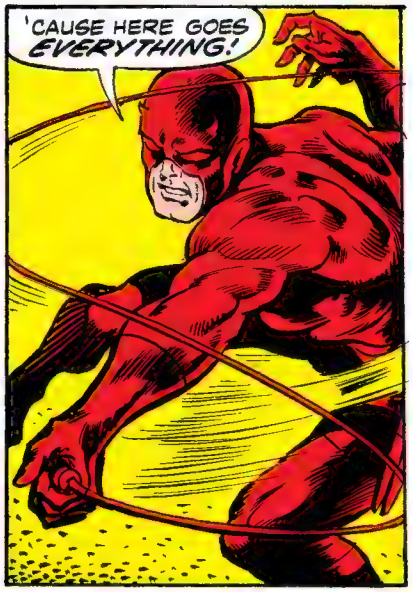

LT. PAUL CARSON, SFPD, AT YOUR SERVICE, FRIEND.
YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYOR ALIOTO, MAYBE?
CARSON, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TOLD YOU HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR?
WHY-- NO!
I'M NOT SURPRISED.
BUT HE HAS BEEN COUNTED BY MANY AS A GREAT FRIEND, MANY INCLUDING YOU, DD.

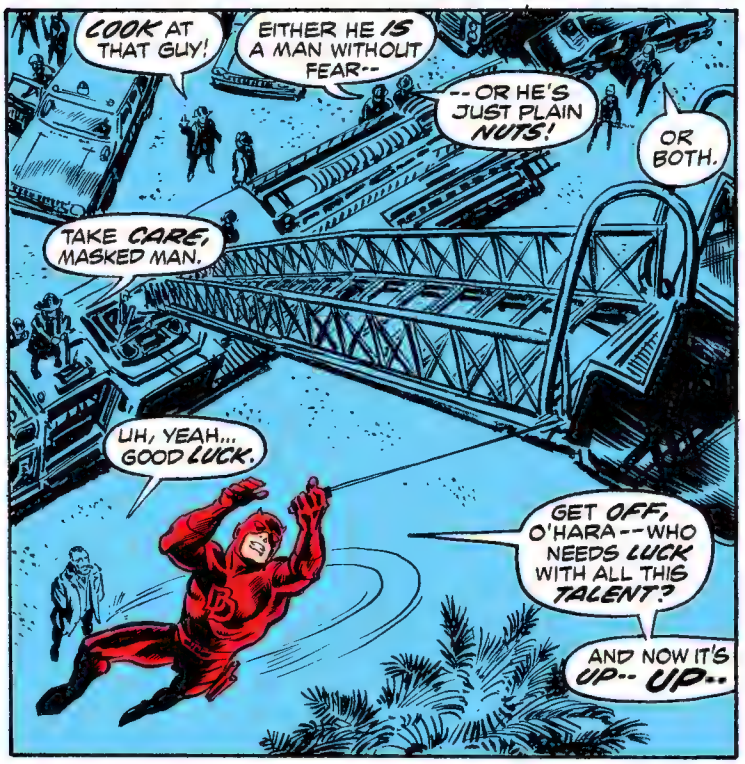

WELL, WELL! A REAL LIVE SUPER-HERO IN MY PATROL CAR!
PERMIT ME, DD-- MY PARTNER McHENY.
MY PLEASURE, I'M SURE.
IT WON'T BE ANYBODY'S PLEASURE IF WE DON'T CLEAR OUTTA HERE--FAST.
THAT CROWD'S GETTIN' NASTY.
SOME BIG HERO YOU ARE, SCARE-DEVIL!
ONE PUNCH AN' YER OUT FOR THE COUNT!
IF YOU'RE SO SUPER--
--WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK AND FIGHT!?
LOOK AT THIS! BEFORE NOW, NOBODY CARED IF I LEFT SAN FRANCISCO-- LOCK, STOCK, AND BILLY CLUB!
NOW THEY WANT ME TO BE THEIR OWN PRIVATE VIGILANTE.
PEOPLE--! WHO CAN FIGGER 'EM?
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
SOON, IN THE OFFICE OF A VERY ANGRY POLICE COMMISSIONER--
C'MON, O'HARA-- LAY OFF.
THE WAY YOU'RE SHOUTING, YOU'D THINK I WAS THE MENACE!
BLAST IT--! YOU ARE A MENACE--
--WHEN YOU CHARGE IN ON POLICE BUSINESS LIKE A ONE-MAN ARMY!
COMMISSIONER, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE HARSH?
AFTER ALL, HE WAS TRYING TO HELP!
CARSON, WHEN I NEED YOUR OPINION, I'LL ASK FOR IT.
PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK FOR IT A LITTLE MORE OFT-
SHUDDUP!!
JUST LISTEN--
THIS CLOWN HAS FREED ALMOST TWO HUNDRED CONVICTED CRIMINALS, AND SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL--
--HE'S TAKEN MOST OF 'EM TO GOLDEN GATE PARK.
HERE!
BUT HE'S PUT UP SOME KIND OF BARRIER AROUND THE PARK--!
MY MEN CAN'T GET IN TO GET HIM.
GOLDEN GATE PARK

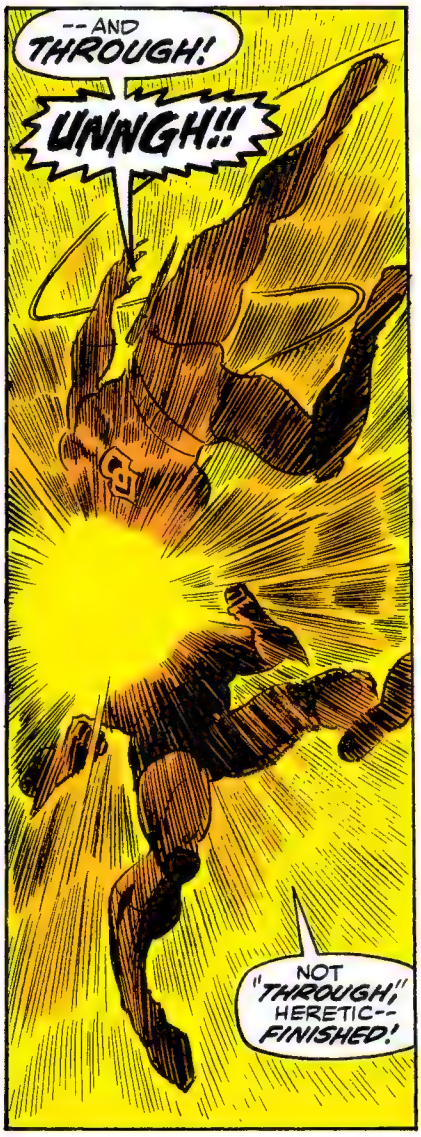
WHICH LEAVES ME WITH YOU--!
YOU DID ME A FAVOR WITH THAT MAN-BULL CHARACTER, HORN-HEAD...
CAN YOU DO ME ANOTHER ONE?


WHA--?! WHY,...SURE, COMMISSIONER! ANYTHING YOU WANT! ANYTHING AT ALL!
GOOD. NOW, WIPE THAT STUPID GRIN OFF YOUR FACE!
WE GOT US A JOB TO DO, FRIEND. COME ON...!


FOR THE NONCE, WE'LL REFRAIN FROM COMMENT ON O'HARA'S UNDER-STATEMENT-- AND HIS USE OF THE PLURAL PRONOUN-- TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM:
A FORCE FIELD -- SEVERAL STORIES HIGH -- WITH BUT ONE APERTURE... AT ITS APEX.
NOT QUITE BIG ENOUGH FOR A 'COPTER TO GET THRU...
BUT JUST ABOUT RIGHT FOR A MAN!
AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN, EH, O'HARA?
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU SAVE ME THE EASY JOBS!
OKAY, THEN, HAVE YOUR MEN STAND BACK--!


'CAUSE HERE GOES EVERYTHING!

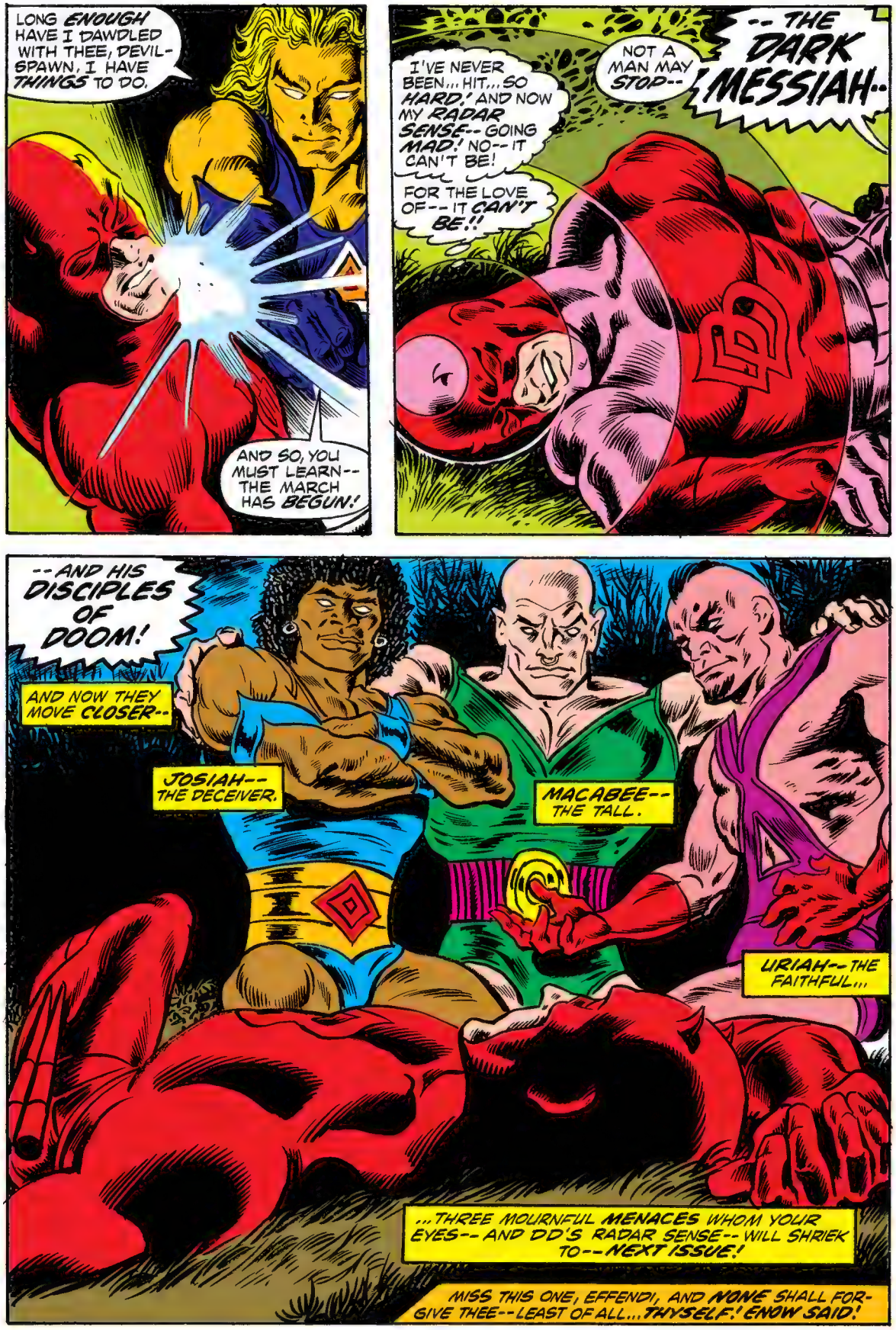

LOOK AT THAT GUY!
EITHER HE IS A MAN WITHOUT FEAR--
--OR HE'S JUST PLAIN NUTS!
OR BOTH.
TAKE CARE, MASKED MAN.
UH, YEAH... GOOD LUCK.
GET OFF, O'HARA--WHO NEEDS LUCK WITH ALL THIS TALENT?
AND NOW IT'S UP-- UP--


--AND THROUGH!
UNNGH!!
NOT "THROUGH," HERETIC-- FINISHED!

THERE IS NO DOUBT FROM WHOSE LIPS THOSE WORDS ARE ISSUED-- NO QUESTION AS TO THE EXTENT OF THAT ONE'S POWER.
THERE IS ONLY THE RUSH OF AIR--
--AND THE RUSTLING OF LEAVES--
--AND THE PREPARATION IN DAREDEVIL'S LIMBS FOR THE MOMENT OF--

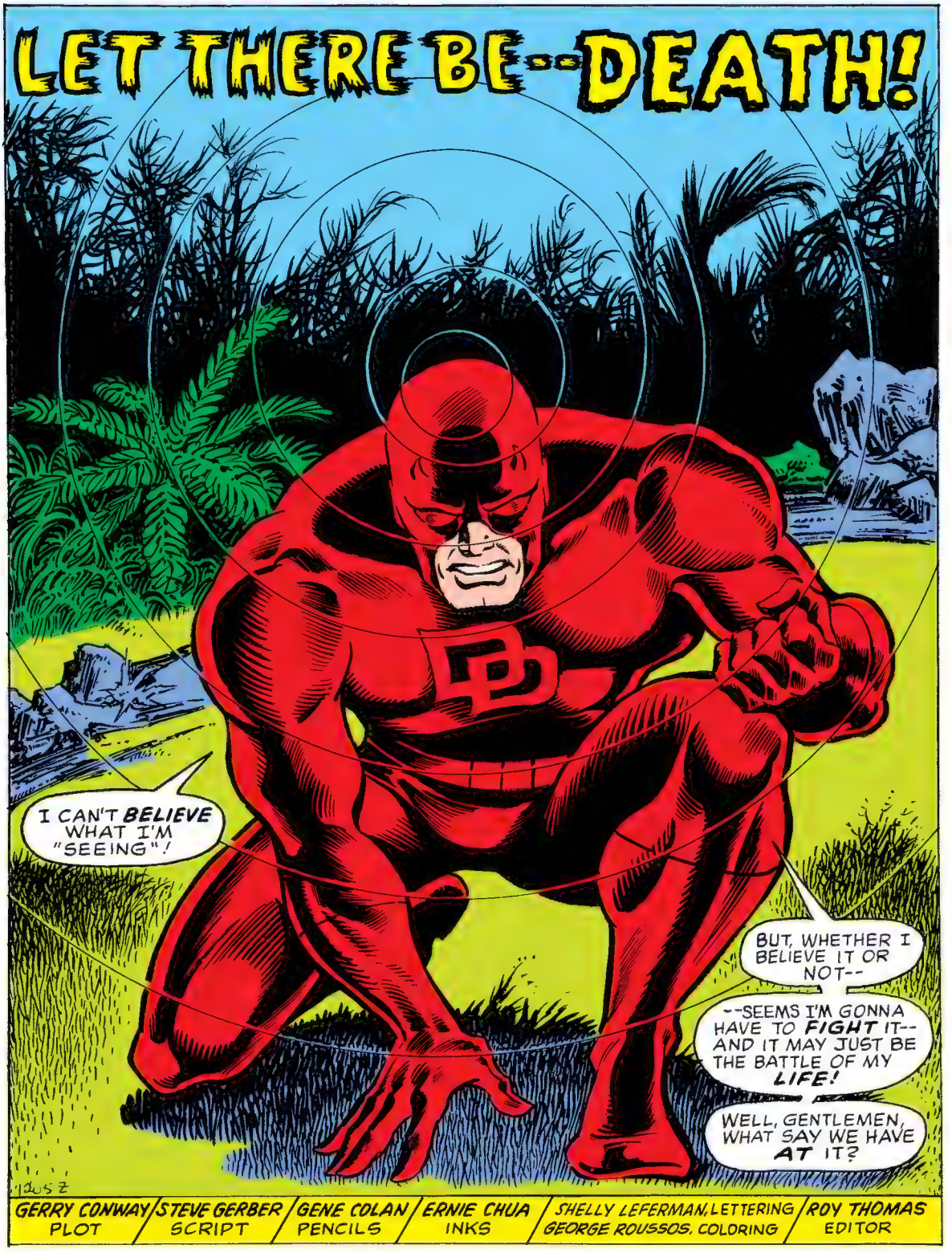
--IMPACT!!

BLASPHEMER!! CLAD IN THE GARB OF SATAN YOU TRESSPASS ON SACRED GROUND!!
THUS MUST I DRIVE YOU FROM THIS TEMPLED SOIL--FOREVER!
AND HIM WHO IS FREE SHALL STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW!
SO BE IT!!
AACHHH!
HE MOVES AS FAST AS I DO!
BUT-- HOLD ON A SECOND, HERE!
HOW COME NO EYE-BLASTS?
UNLESS-- MAINTAINING THE FORCE-FIELD TAKES ALL HIS POWER--!
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE-- MAYBE ONE GOOD, SOLID LEFT TO THE JAW--
OKAY, BUSTER, THE SERMONETTE'S OVER! IT'S TIME YOU SIGNED OFF--!
OW!!
YOU PITIFUL FOOL!
DID YOU TRULY EXPECT A MERE PHYSICAL BLOW TO AFFECT ONE WHOSE POWER IS...THE POWER?
:MMPH: HAND FEELS LIKE I HIT A STONE WALL! JUST HOPE IT'S NOT BROKEN--!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO STOP THIS MANIAC...
...BUT-- WHAT?!
THE ANSWER, SADLY, IS NOT FORTHCOMING...
...ONLY THE IRON-FISTED FURY OF THE DARK MESSIAH!


LONG ENOUGH HAVE I DAWDLED WITH THEE, DEVIL-SPAWN, I HAVE THINGS TO DO.
AND SO, YOU MUST LEARN-- THE MARCH HAS BEGUN!
I'VE NEVER BEEN... HIT... SO HARD! AND NOW MY RADAR SENSE-- GOING MAD! NO-- IT CAN'T BE!
FOR THE LOVE OF-- IT CAN'T BE!!
NOT A MAN MAY STOP--
-- THE DARK MESSIAH--
--AND HIS DISCIPLES OF DOOM!
AND NOW THEY MOVE CLOSER--
JOSIAH-- THE DECEIVER.
MACABEE-- THE TALL.
URIAH-- THE FAITHFUL...
...THREE MOURNFUL MENACES WHOM YOUR EYES-- AND DD'S RADAR SENSE-- WILL SHRIEK TO-- NEXT ISSUE!
MISS THIS ONE, EFFENDI, AND NONE SHALL FORGIVE THEE-- LEAST OF ALL... THYSELF! ENOW SAID!

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
20¢
98
APR
02459
DAREDEVIL®
AND THE
BLACK WIDOW
HAH! WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO YOU TO SAVE THE GIRL, MASKED MAN--
--WHEN THE VERY EARTH CRUMBLES BENEATH YOUR FEET??
WE'LL SEE, MACABEE--
WE'LL JUST SEE!!
LET THERE BE... THE DISCIPLES OF DOOM!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!


LET THERE BE--DEATH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M "SEEING"!
BUT, WHETHER I BELIEVE IT OR NOT--
--SEEMS I'M GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT IT--AND IT MAY JUST BE THE BATTLE OF MY LIFE!
WELL, GENTLEMEN, WHAT SAY WE HAVE AT IT?
GERRY CONWAY PLOT
STEVE GERBER SCRIPT
GENE COLAN PENCILS
ERNIE CHUA INKS
SHELLY LEFERMAN, LETTERING
GEORGE ROUSSOS, COLORING
ROY THOMAS EDITOR

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NOW!

FOLLOW THE BOUNCING HERO, CREEPS--!

FOOL! THERE IS BUT ONE TRUE LIVING HERO--

--AND HE IS OUR MASTER!

YOU ARE BUT AN AGENT OF HELL-- A SERVITOR OF SATAN!

DEATH TO YOU, RED ONE!

NYAAH! YOU MISSED!

IF YOU'RE THE CURIOUS TYPE, YOU MAY BE WONDERING: WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

WELL, IT ALL BEGAN LAST ISH, WHEN A YOUNG MAN WAS INJURED, TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL, IGNORED BY THE DOCTORS AND NURSES--

--AND THEN EXPLOITED BY A STRANGE OLD MAN WITH A PENCHANT FOR HIDING IN SHADOW.

THE YOUNG MAN WAS HORRIBLY CHANGED, PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY... AND NOW, TOTALLY INSANE --

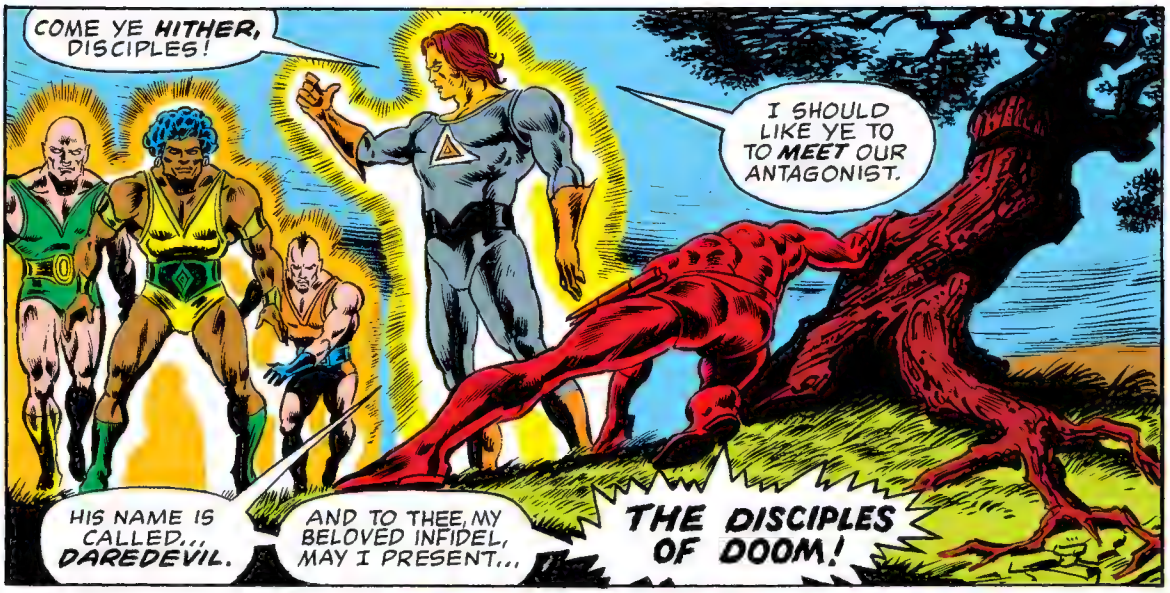
--HE BELIEVES HE IS SOME VENGEFUL GOD-THING... JUST AS THE MEN DAREDEVIL IS FIGHTING BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE HIS DISCIPLES... THE FOLLOWERS OF --

--MORDECAI JONES, THE DARK MESSIAH!!

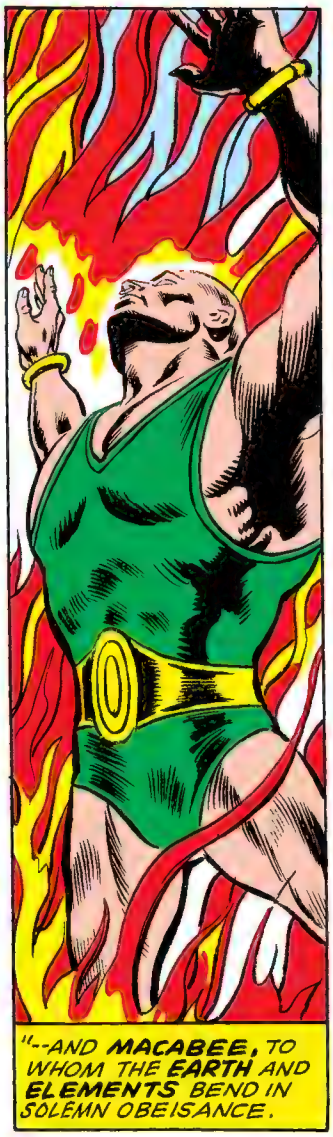
PLAUDITS, DAREDEVIL--

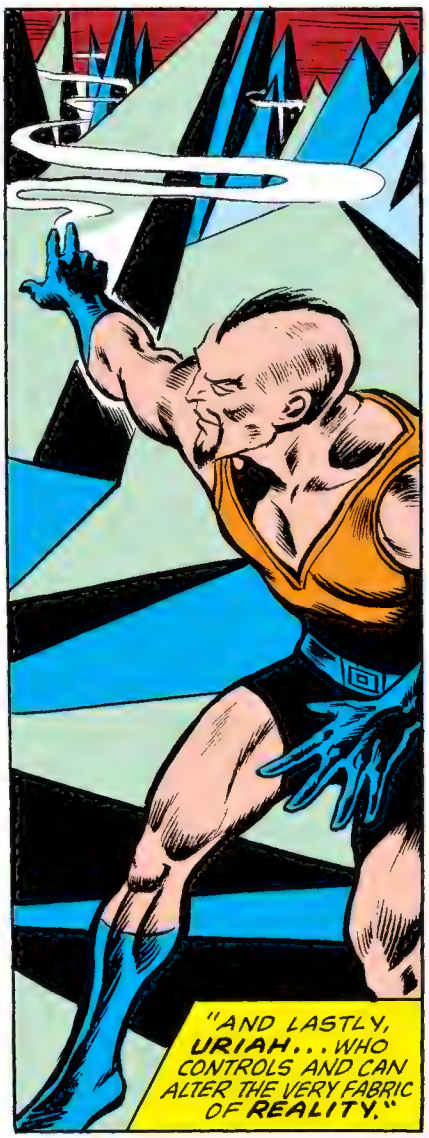
--ON A SUPERB SHOWING OF ACROBATIC PYROTECHNICS.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE KISSING YOUR FEET FOR ALL THAT PRAISE--
BUT I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND!
WHUN!
THIS!
=MMPH= NO GOOD--HE'S STILL HARD AS A ROCK!
I WARNED YOU, DAREDEVIL.
I HAVE CLAIMED GOLDEN GATE PARK AS MY HOLY LAND.
NO MAN MAY ASSAULT ME HERE.
THAT IS WHY I ENCLOSED THE AREA IN A FORCE FIELD-- WHY THOU WERT SO FOOLISH TO TRESPASS...
--WHY THOU MUST BE TAUGHT...
...THE LESSON.
=UMNG=
NEVER FORGET THIS, DAREDEVIL!
NONE MAY TOUCH THE PERSON OF THE DARK MESSIAH.


COME YE HITHER, DISCIPLES!
I SHOULD LIKE YE TO TO MEET OUR ANTAGONIST.
HIS NAME IS CALLED... DAREDEVIL.
AND TO THEE, MY BELOVED INFIDEL, MAY I PRESENT...
THE DISCIPLES OF DOOM!

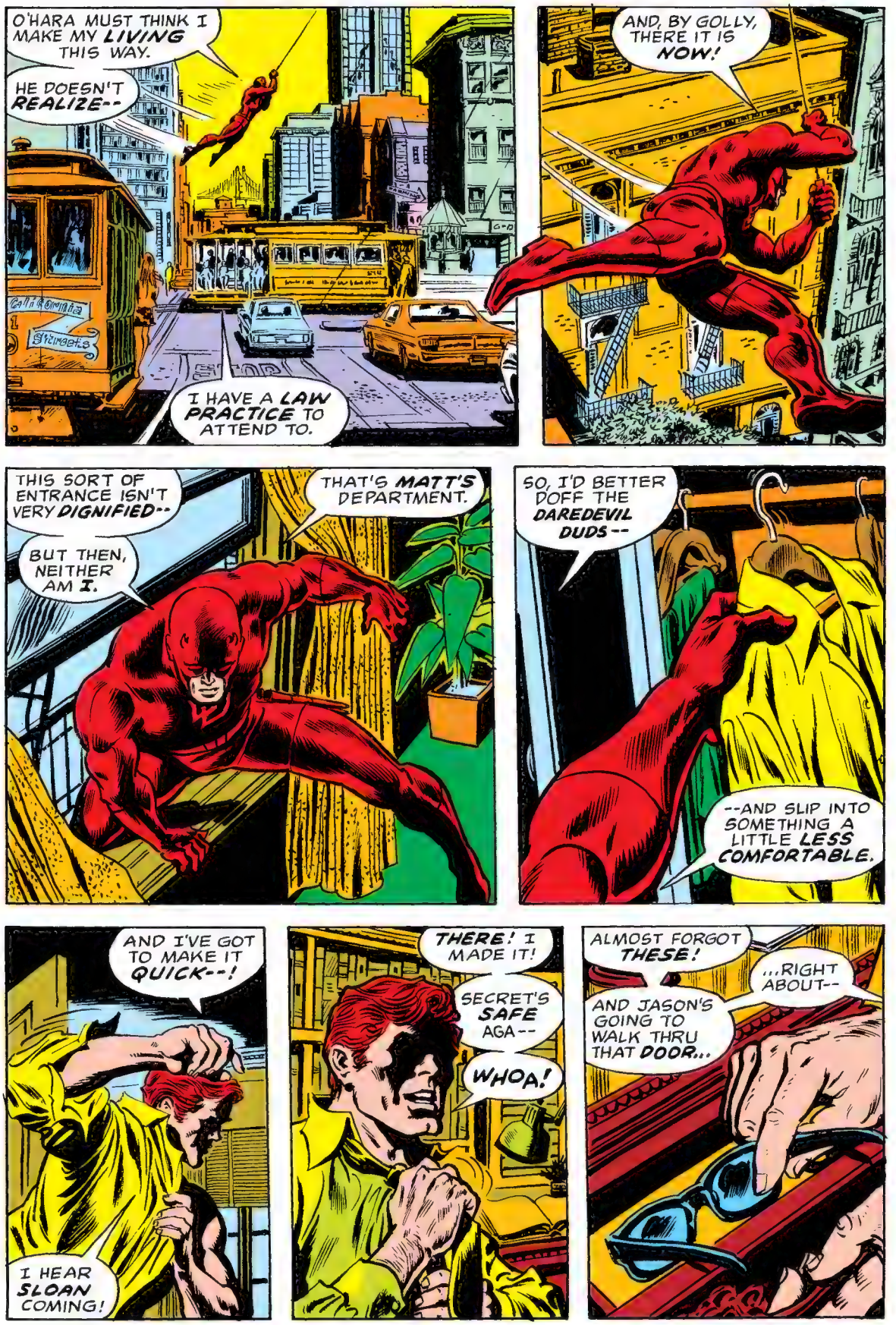
"FIRST, JOSIAH-- WHOSE HANDS HOLD IN SWAY THE TERRIBLE POWER OF SONIC VIBRATION--!


"--AND MACABEE, TO WHOM THE EARTH AND ELEMENTS BEND IN SOLEMN OBEISANCE.


"AND LASTLY, URIAH... WHO CONTROLS AND CAN ALTER THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY."

A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY, MY DISCIPLES!
BUT NOW--BEGONE! YE HAVE WORKS TO DO.
IT GETS MADDER BY THE SECOND! THEY'RE--
--VANISHING! JUST FADING AWAY LIKE PHANTOMS--!
WHERE ARE THEY GOING? WHERE?
THOU WILT LEARN SOON ENOUGH, DAREDEVIL...
...AS WILL ALL OF SAN FRANCISCO!
WAIT!
YOU CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR!
I NEED TO KNOW--OUR BATTLE--?
WHAT WAS IT FOR?
BUT NOW, I MUST ALSO DEPART!
THUS, I BANISH THE FORCE FIELD WITH A GESTURE, AND--
HAHAHAHAHAHA
NO ANSWER! JUST HIS MOCKING LAUGHTER--
--AND THAT INCREDIBLY SLOW HEARTBEAT OF HIS--FADING OUT...
...SLOWING EVEN MORE.
AND NOW--
GONE.

WHERE DID HE COME FROM? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
THE CLUE IS IN THAT HEARTBEAT --I'M CERTAIN!
DARE DEVIL!!
IF ONLY I COULD RECALL WHERE I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE!
YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?
THE DARK MESSIAH --WHERE IS HE?
GONE, O'HARA...
YOU DID IT, BOY! I KNEW YOU'D COME THRU!
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I SAID...
UH,..SOMETHING WRONG, HORN-HEAD?
YOU'RE NOT ACTING MUCH LIKE THE CONQUERING HERO.
I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRONG, CHIEF.
HE DIDN'T BEAT THAT MANIAC-- AND WE'RE STILL IN TROUBLE.
RIGHT, DD?
WRONG, PAUL.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TROUBLE IS--
--YET.
AND ON THAT JOYOUS NOTE, GENTLEMEN... I'LL BE GOING.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU LATER.
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST RUN OFF LIKE THIS!
OH--CAN'T HE?

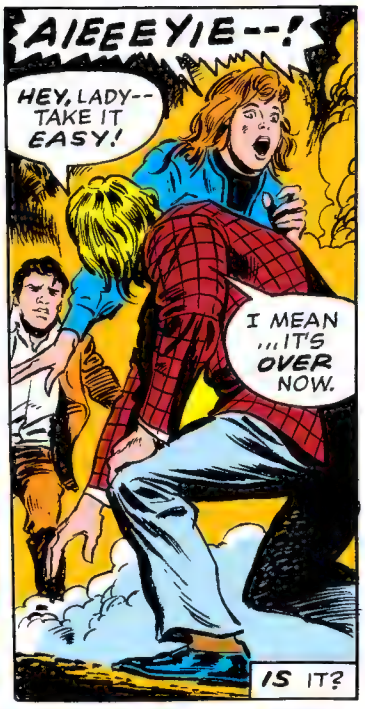

O'HARA MUST THINK I MAKE MY LIVING THIS WAY.
HE DOESN'T REALIZE--
I HAVE A LAW PRACTICE TO ATTEND TO.
AND, BY GOLLY, THERE IT IS NOW!
THIS SORT OF ENTRANCE ISN'T VERY DIGNIFIED--
BUT THEN, NEITHER AM I.
THAT'S MATT'S DEPARTMENT.
SO, I'D BETTER DOFF THE DAREDEVIL DUDS--
--AND SLIP INTO SOMETHING A LITTLE LESS COMFORTABLE.
AND I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT QUICK--!
I HEAR SLOAN COMING!
THERE! I MADE IT!
SECRET'S SAFE AGA--
WHOA!
ALMOST FORGOT THESE!
...RIGHT ABOUT--
AND JASON'S GOING TO WALK THRU THAT DOOR...

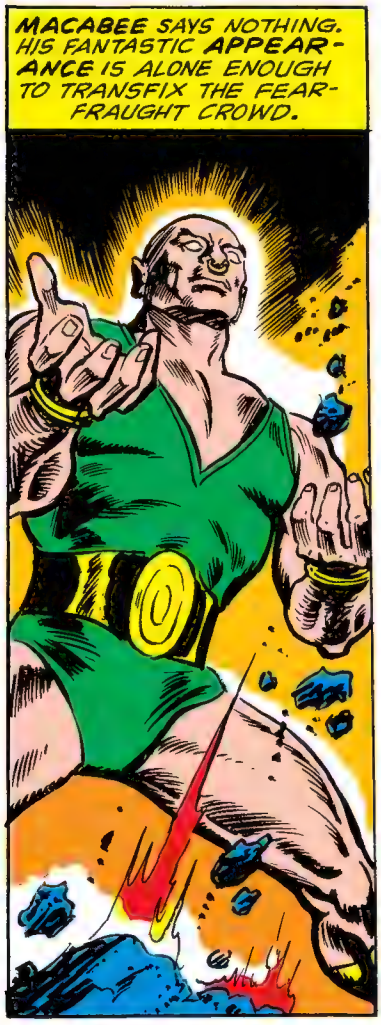
--NOW!
COME IN, JASON.
MATT! DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN.
I WAS GOING TO LEAVE THIS BRIEF ON YOUR DESK.
BRIEF? ABOUT MY CASE?
THERE CAN'T BE SUCH A FILE. I NEVER EVEN GOT TO TALK WITH OUR CLIENTS!
THEY WERE SPRUNG FROM JAIL BY THE DARK MESSIAH THIS MORNING.*
SO I HEARD
*LAST ISH, TO US.--ROY.
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR HAVING THIS BRAILLE COPY MADE FOR--
WAIT-- WHAT'S THIS?
OUR CLIENTS PLEADING GUILTY?
NOT OUR CLIENTS MATT.
THOSE ARE ORDERS FROM "THE MAN" HIMSELF--
--OUR SENIOR PARTNER-- KERWIN J. BRODERICK.
BUT-- WHY?!
WHY??
WHY SHOULD BRODERICK WANT THOSE KIDS PUT AWAY?
YOU TELL ME.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WORKS FOR HIM.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S BOTHERING ME JUST NOW...
...OR WHAT SHOULD BE WORRYING YOU, EITHER.

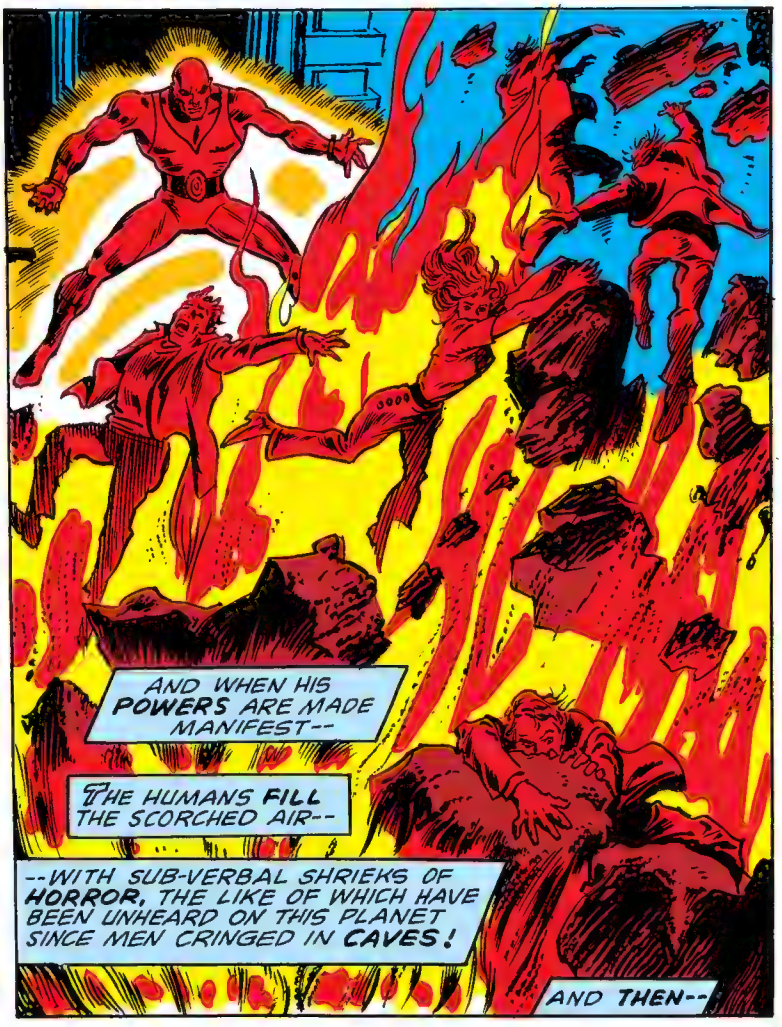
YOU MEAN I SHOULD BE OUT SEARCHING FOR MORDECAI AND FRIENDS, DON'T YOU?
DO I?
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
SURELY NOT THE FACT THAT IT'S WHAT I'LL BE DOING--
--WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
WE'LL LET YOU ANTICIPATE MATT'S REPLY...
...WHILE WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO AN ORDINARY SAN FRANCISCO CABLECAR CLICKETY-CLACKING ITS WAY ALONG THE SAME ROUTE IT HAS FOLLOWED FOR A QUARTER-CENTURY.
BUT, TODAY IS FATED TO BE...
...DIFFERENT.
IT BEGINS, BROTHERS-- THE CLEANSING!

AND WITHIN THE TERROR-STRUCK TROLLEY-CAR--
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
CONDUCTOR
I THINK...IT'S THE END...OF THE WORLD.
STIFFLY, THE GRIPMAN'S HANDS REACH OUT TO--
STOP...MUST STOP THIS CAR...
AND--HE DOES!
HEY!!
POWELL AND MARKET
FISHERMAN'S WHARF 3 BLOCKS FROM TERMINAL
BAY AND TAYLOR
5
SCREEEE
SEE HOW THE MORTALS SCURRY LIKE RATS BEFORE US?
THOUGH THEY PERHAPS LACK THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE--
THEY KNOW WHO AND WHAT WE ARE!!
THUS, IN THE NAME OF THE MESSIAH MORDECAI DO I RAISE MY HAND AND CRY:
509
CHAOS!

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?
I--I DON'T KNOW!
THE CAR JUST SEEMED TO--FALL APART!
AND... WITHOUT A SOUND!
BUT WHAT CAUSED IT?
AND... WHY?


AIEEEYIE--!
HEY, LADY-- TAKE IT EASY!
I MEAN ...IT'S OVER NOW.
IS IT?

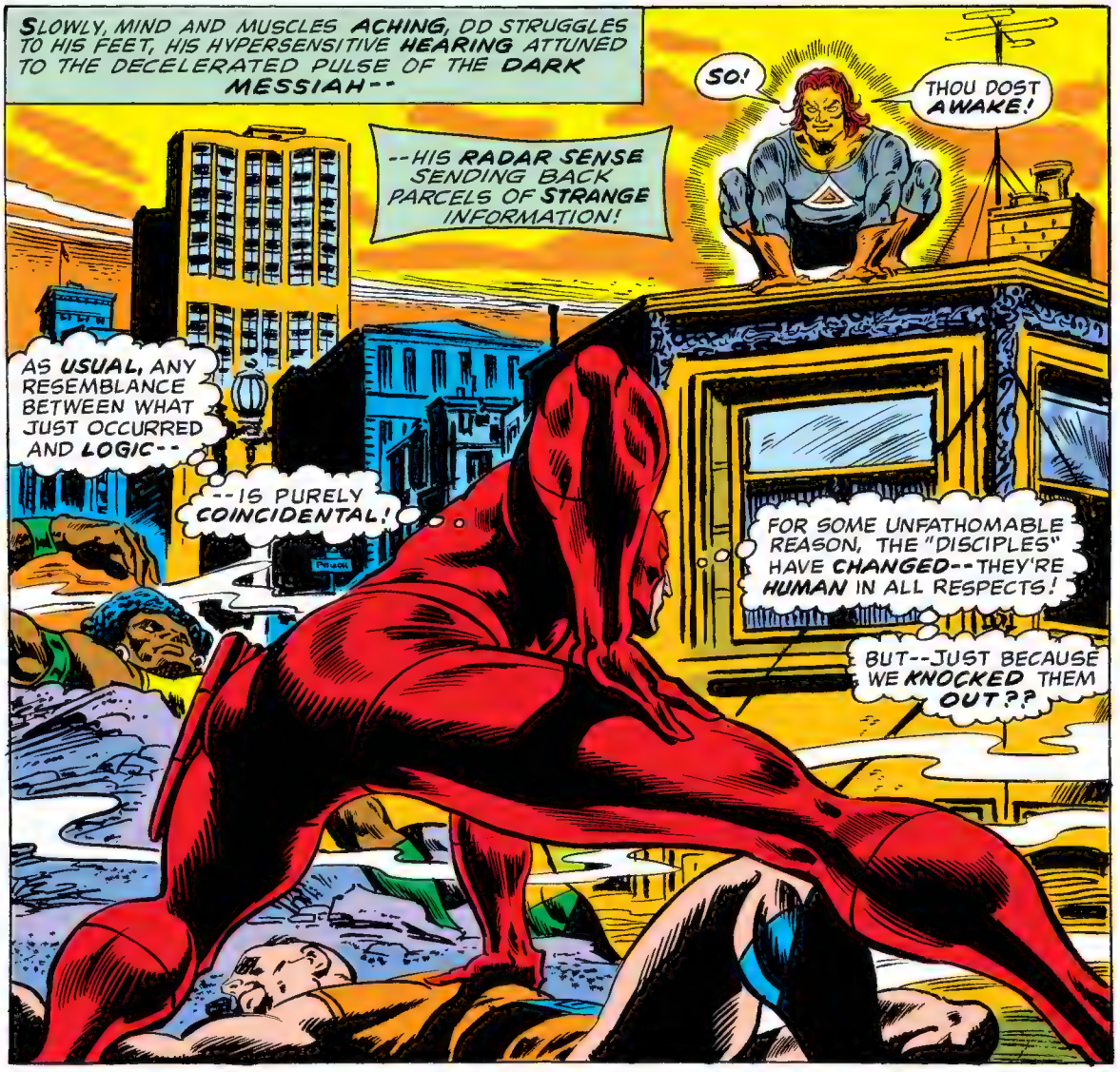

MACABEE SAYS NOTHING. HIS FANTASTIC APPEARANCE IS ALONE ENOUGH TO TRANSFIX THE FEAR-FRAUGHT CROWD.

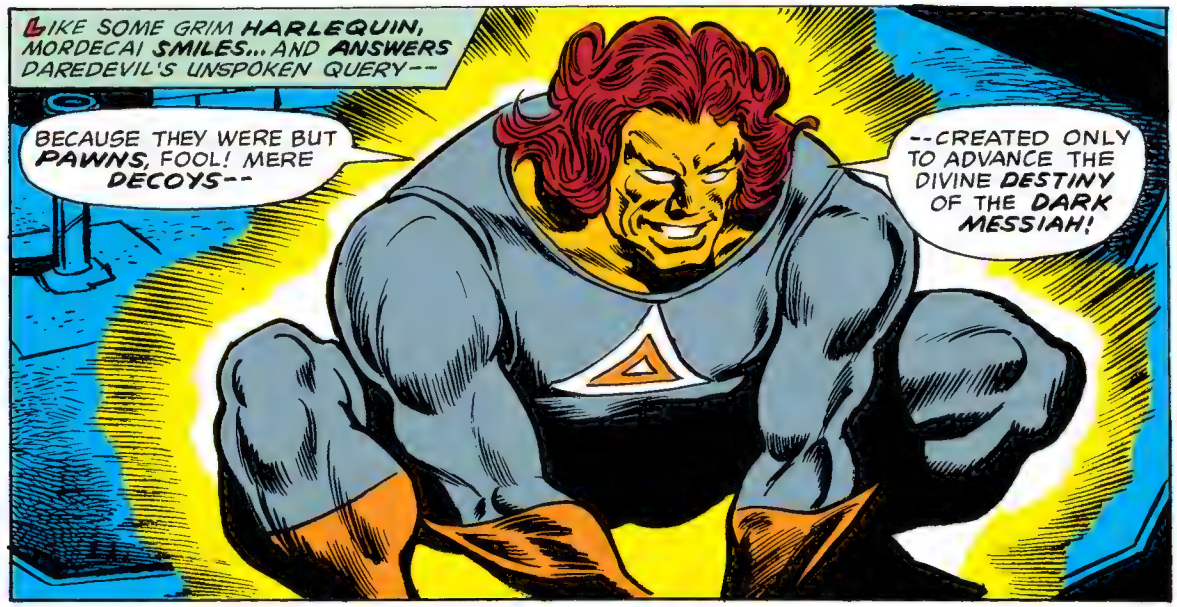

AND WHEN HIS POWERS ARE MADE MANIFEST--
THE HUMANS FILL THE SCORCHED AIR--
--WITH SUB-VERBAL SHRIEKS OF HORROR, THE LIKE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN UNHEARD ON THIS PLANET SINCE MEN CRINGED IN CAVES!
AND THEN--

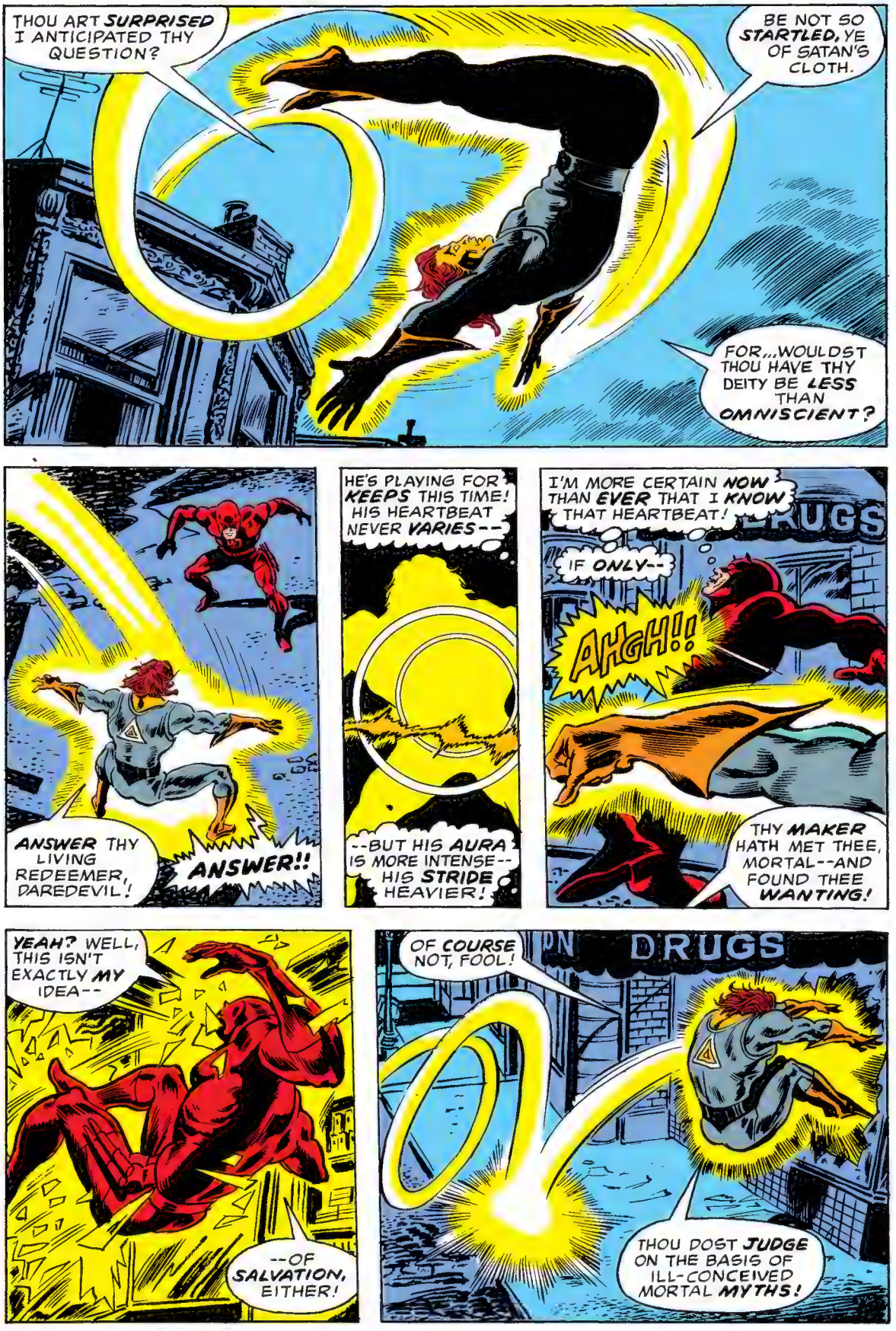
--DELIVERANCE!!
EAT FEET, BALDY!
THE MARINES HAVE LANDED!
AND YOU THREE ARE FINISHED!
WHAT?! YOU DARE!!
JOSIAH! URIAH! TO MY SIDE!
DON'T MIND HIM, JOSIE! STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!
I HAVE A THEORY I WANT TO TEST!
UMMGH
AH-HA! RIGHT ON!
SOMEHOW I FIGURED ONLY YOUR BOSS COULD STAND UP TO A HARD LEFT!
--OR A WIDOW'S STING, EH?

BUT, SUDDENLY--
OHH!
MY RIBS!! DD--HELP!! THE PAIN... GOING TO PASS OOOooout....
WIDOW--!
BLAST! THE WOUND SHE GOT FROM THE MAN-BULL ...STILL NOT FULLY HEALED!
BUT, AS DD WHIRLS--
THE WORLD GOES STRANGE!
CRIPES! THE THIRD "STOOGE" HAS TURNED ON HIS ILLUSION POWER!
HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT IT IS AN ILLUSION... I THINK...
JUST KEEP MY RADAR SENSE TRAINED ON NATASHA.
I...
AM...
...COMING FOR YOU, DAREDEVIL.
BUT IT'S SO STRONG-- SO OVERWHELMING! TAKES ENERGY--
-- JUST ... TO RESIST!

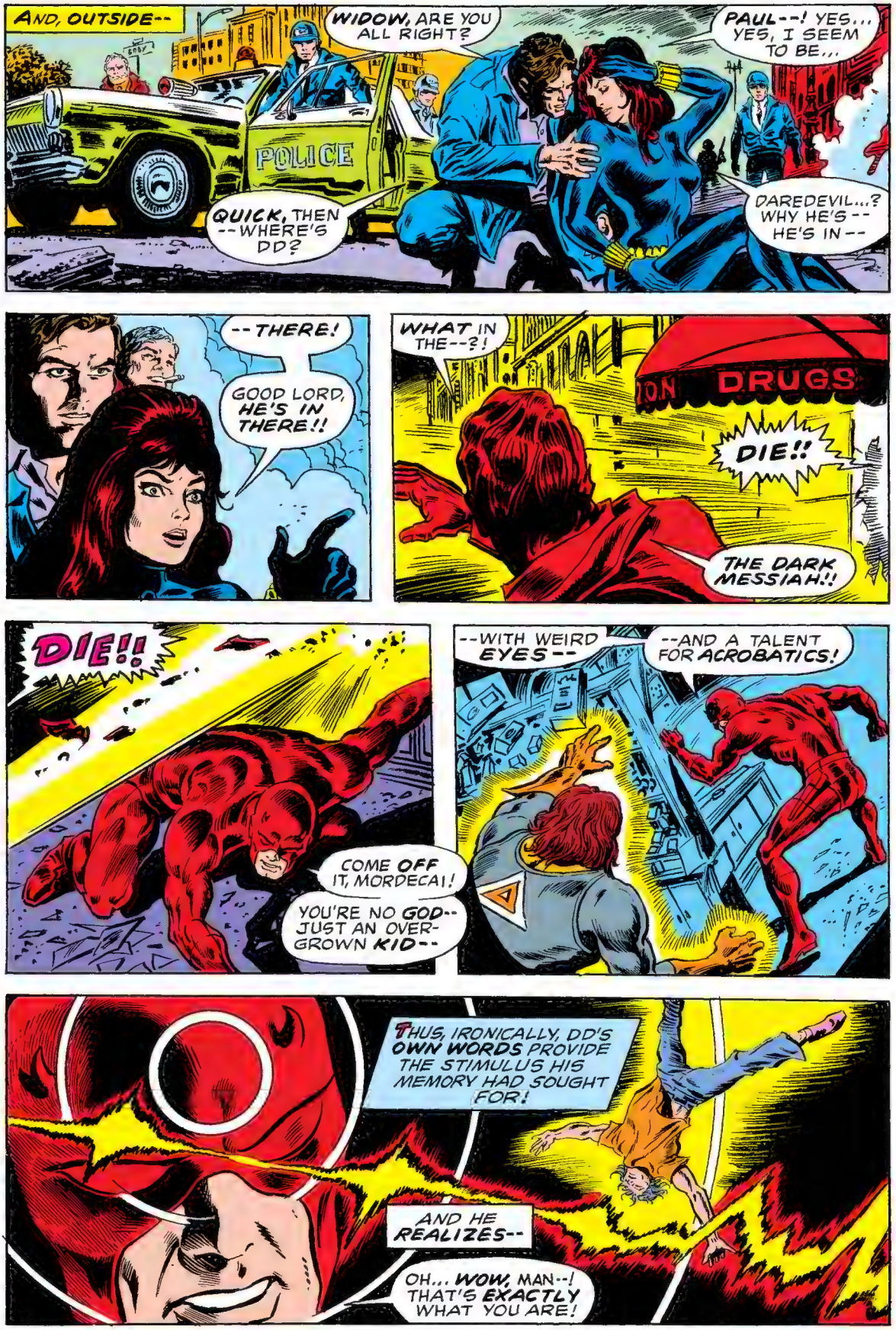
BUT EVEN AS DD STRAINS HIS WILL TO THE TASK--
EVERYTHING'S CHANGING... BACK AGAIN...
AND WITH THE TRUTH...
...MY PAIN RETURNS, ALSO. I--
I WANT-- SO MUCH-- TO STAND ...TO FIGHT--
--BESIDE DAREDEVIL...
BUT...I... CANNOT...
I'M... DRAINED! LIKE WAKING FROM A NIGHTMARE--!
I CAN BARELY WALK...
BUT I'VE DOPED OUT HIS LIMITATION, TOO!
HE CAN ONLY MAINTAIN HIS ILLUSIONS MOMENTARILY-- AND IT TAKES HIM TIME TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER!
ONLY THIS TIME, HE'S NOT GONNA GET--
=AXCCHK=
TOTALLY SPENT, DD COLLAPSES ON URIAH'S HEAPED FORM--
--THE
--CHANCE.
AND HE DOES NOT STIR UNTIL HE HEARS--
THAT SAME FREAKING HEARTBEAT!
HE'S BACK!!


SLOWLY, MIND AND MUSCLES ACHING, DD STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET, HIS HYPERSENSITIVE HEARING ATTUNED TO THE DECELERATED PULSE OF THE DARK MESSIAH--
--HIS RADAR SENSE SENDING BACK PARCELS OF STRANGE INFORMATION!
SO!
THOU DOST AWAKE!
AS USUAL, ANY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN WHAT JUST OCCURRED AND LOGIC--
--IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL!
FOR SOME UNFATHOMABLE REASON, THE "DISCIPLES" HAVE CHANGED--THEY'RE HUMAN IN ALL RESPECTS!
BUT--JUST BECAUSE WE KNOCKED THEM OUT??


LIKE SOME GRIM HARLEQUIN, MORDECAI SMILES... AND ANSWERS DAREDEVIL'S UNSPOKEN QUERY--
BECAUSE THEY WERE BUT PAWNS, FOOL! MERE DECOYS--
--CREATED ONLY TO ADVANCE THE DIVINE DESTINY OF THE DARK MESSIAH!


THOU ART SURPRISED I ANTICIPATED THY QUESTION?
BE NOT SO STARTLED, YE OF SATAN'S CLOTH.
FOR,,,WOULDST THOU HAVE THY DEITY BE LESS THAN OMNISCIENT?
ANSWER THY LIVING REDEEMER, DAREDEVIL!
ANSWER!!
HE'S PLAYING FOR KEEPS THIS TIME! HIS HEARTBEAT NEVER VARIES--
--BUT HIS AURA IS MORE INTENSE-- HIS STRIDE HEAVIER!
I'M MORE CERTAIN NOW THAN EVER THAT I KNOW THAT HEARTBEAT!
IF ONLY--
AHGH!!
THY MAKER HATH MET THEE, MORTAL--AND FOUND THEE WANTING!
YEAH? WELL, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY MY IDEA--
--OF SALVATION, EITHER!
OF COURSE NOT, FOOL!
DRUGS
THOU DOST JUDGE ON THE BASIS OF ILL-CONCEIVED MORTAL MYTHS!

AWRIGHT, YOU TWO-- FREEZE!
I AIN'T MUCH ON GODS 'N MYTHS, BUT I KNOW VANDALISM!
YOU GUYS STOP WRECKING MY STORE, OR I'LL--
FOOL!! I'LL STOP NOTHING!!
SHOOT, MORTAL! I COMMAND THEE!
SHOOT!!
AW-AWRIGHT, BUDDY--YOU ASKED FOR IT!
BAM
THOU MUST PAY--
HAHAHA HA HA
AND NOW THAT THOU HAST SEEN THINE ERROR--
--WITH THY LIFE!!
AND THOU, TOO, DAREDEVIL--
HEY, MORDECAI--A QUESTION! HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THAT YOUR REGULAR NAME-BRAND DEITY--
--DOESN'T NEED LACKEYS--OR PAWNS--OR EYE-BEAMS?


AND, OUTSIDE--
WIDOW, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PAUL--! YES... YES, I SEEM TO BE...
POLICE
QUICK, THEN --WHERE'S DD?
DAREDEVIL...? WHY HE'S -- HE'S IN --
--THERE!
GOOD LORD, HE'S IN THERE!!
WHAT IN THE--?!
ON DRUGS
DIE!!
THE DARK MESSIAH!!
DIE!!
COME OFF IT, MORDECAI!
YOU'RE NO GOD-- JUST AN OVER-GROWN KID--
--WITH WEIRD EYES--
--AND A TALENT FOR ACROBATICS!
THUS, IRONICALLY, DD'S OWN WORDS PROVIDE THE STIMULUS HIS MEMORY HAD SOUGHT FOR!
AND HE REALIZES--
OH... WOW, MAN--! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE!

YOU'RE THE BOY FROM THE THEATRE--THE ONE WHO WAS HURT--THE STREETCORNER ACROBAT!
NO!
YES--YES! YOU ARE! TRY TO REMEMBER!
NO--NO!!
IT'S NOT--TRUEEEEE
FA-KOOM
OH... NO...
OH, PAUL--HE'S GONE--!
NO, PAUL... HE'S NOT. HANDS OFF MY LADY!
DD! ALIVE!!
WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE?
I DON'T KNOW, PAUL--I THINK A MAN SIMPLY REALIZED WHAT HE'D BECOME--AND ULTIMATELY--
--COULDN'T FACE ...THE TRUTH.
I WONDER... COULD ANY OF US?
NEXT: WHEN CALL THE... AVENGERS

DAREDEVIL MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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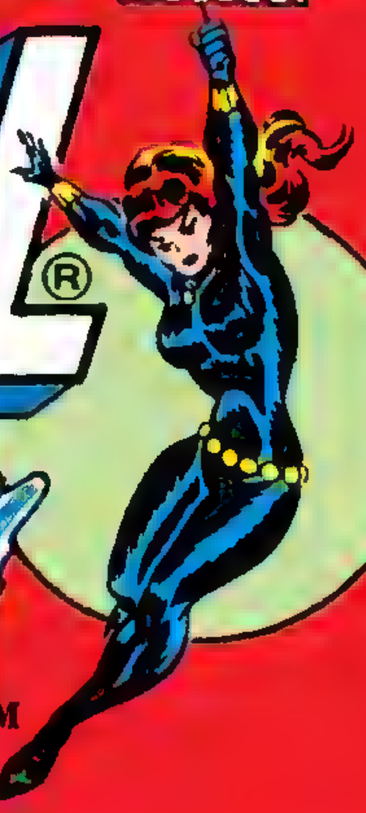
DAREDEVIL® AND THE BLACK WIDOW™



HE'S BACK! DON'T MISS--

THE MARK OF HAWKEYE!

Stan Lee presents: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

NO!!

MISTER, I'VE JUST FOUGHT ONE OF THE *TOUGHEST* BATTLES OF MY *LIFE!*

AND NOW *NOTHING'S* GONNA STAND BETWEEN ME AND A GOOD *REST!* NOT EVEN *YOU!*

SO *MOVE ALONG,* SONNY, BEFORE I--

DAREDEVIL-- *PLEASE!*

WELL--! THE WIDOW'S OLD *BEAU--*

OR, SHOULD I SAY, "*BOW?*"

THEY'VE ONLY JUST RETURNED FROM BATTLING THE DARK MESSIAH. AND NOW, ACCORDING TO...

STEVE GERBER *WRITER*	SAM KWESKIN *DESIGNER*	SYD SHORES *EMBELLISHER*
ARTIE SIMEK, *LETTERER* STAN G., *COLORIST*		ROY THOMAS *EDITOR*

...THEY MUST COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH--

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--AN OLD FRIEND!

FLAT-FOOT, YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR RIVALS THE HULK'S GOOD LOOKS.

AND AS FOR YOU, HORN-HEAD, I ALMOST DIED MYSELF THIS AFTERNOON--

--OF BOREDOM!

I'VE BEEN PERCHED LIKE A PARTRIDGE IN THAT PEAR TREE OVER YONDER...FOR TWO HOURS AND 38 MINUTES--

--JUST WAITING FOR YOU CLOWNS TO GET HOME!

I'M SORRY, KITTEN...

I TRIED TO SEND HIM AWAY, BUT I'VE BEEN... SO WEAK...

IVAN!!

LOOK, DAREDEVIL! IVAN'S REVIVED! HE'S WELL!

THE MARK OF HAWKEYE!

BUT--**YOU!!**

HOW **DARE** YOU COME **CRASHING** BACK INTO MY LIFE LIKE THIS?!

OH, **GREAT,** LADY--

--THAT'S **JUST** WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR--

--AFTER COMING THREE THOUSAND MILES JUST TO **TELL** YOU...

...WHAT YOU **MEAN** TO ME.

OH, HAWKEYE, I'M **SORRY,** BUT--

YOU'RE SORRY? **LISTEN,** BABY--

COOL IT, WILLIAM TELL.

CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE **UPSETTING** THE LADY?

HEY, NOW--

MY EYES ARE AS GOOD AS **YOURS,** FEARLESS.

I'LL JUST BET THEY **ARE.**

AND AT LEAST *TWO* OF 'EM ARE GONNA BE *BLACK,* UNLESS YOU--

CLEAR OUT!

UP YOUR *HORNS,* FELLA!

I'M NOT LEAVIN' WITHOUT *'TASHA!*

KEEP *WISHING,* AVENGER! THE WIDOW'S NOT UP FOR *GRABS* TODAY!

THAT'S ENOUGH-- BOTH OF YOU!!

I GO *WHERE* I PLEASE-- WITH *WHOM* I PLEASE!

THAT'S TELLIN' HIM, SPIDER LADY!

HAWKEYE, DO ME A FAVOR: *SHUT UP!*

I WISH *BOTH* OF YOU NOBLE, SELFLESS DEFENDERS OF THE GOOD WOULD START ACTING THE *PART.*

MEANING, CAN WE GO INSIDE AND *DISCUSS* THIS LIKE CIVILIZED HUMAN BEINGS?

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT IT *IS* WE'RE GOING TO *DISCUSS!*

LOOK--I'M GOING TO CHANGE INTO ONE OF THE *SPARE COSTUMES--*

--THAT *MURDOCK* LETS ME KEEP UPSTAIRS.

I TRUST I CAN *TRUST* YOU TWO.

TRUST US WITH-- *WHAT?*

AHEM! WELL, FOLKS--SOMETHING TELLS ME YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL FUZZ IS NO LONGER NEEDED HERE.

VERY PERCEPTIVE, CHUM.

BESIDES--I THINK TASHA KNOWS HER OWN MIND BETTER THAN WE DO--SO I'LL BE GOING...

THANK YOU, PAUL. I MEAN THAT.

WELL--HE'S GONE!

AND OL' IVAN'S SOUND ASLEEP AGAIN--SO I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, NATASHA.

YES...YES, I SUPPOSE IT HAS.

YOU LOOK...DIFFERENT THESE DAYS--YOUR COSTUME--YOUR HAIR--

EVEN...

...YOUR VOICE!

UMM... TIMES CHANGE, PEOPLE CHANGE.

MAYBE--

BUT ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED, HAS IT, LADY--?

--THE THING WE FEEL FOR EACH OTHER.

JUST SEEING YOU AGAIN...

NO, CLINT --PLEASE...

MY HEART *BLEEDS* FOR YOU, ROMEO.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE A COUPLE YEARS *TOO LATE.*

YEAH? SEZ *WHO?*

KNOCK IT *OFF,* HAWKEYE! THAT CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER IS BIGGER THAN YOUR *FEET!*

STOP PLAYING *GAMES.*

GAMES, HUH? *TELL* HIM, NATASHA.

NOBODY CAN REPLACE ME IN YOUR LIFE!

IT'S STILL THE *SAME* BETWEEN US, RIGHT?

YOU'LL *ALWAYS* HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR SWEET, LOVABLE OL' HAWKEYE, WON'T YOU?

CONSIDER YOUR ANSWER *CAREFULLY,* MS. ROMANOFF-- FOR A *WRONG* ONE BODES *TROUBLE...*

WHEN YOU PUT IT *THAT* WAY...

...WHAT CAN I *SAY* BUT-- *YES.*

BLAST! HOW COULD SHE DENY *THAT?!*

DAREDEVIL...

FWOK!

...*BUTT OUT!*

YOU CAN ONLY PUSH A MAN *SO FAR--!*

MY SENTIMENTS *EXACTLY*, BOW-BRAIN! YOU'VE BEEN *ITCHING* FOR A FIGHT--

SNAP

--AND *NOW*--

YOU'VE GOT IT!!

THUNGG.

DD! HAWKEYE! DON'T--!

SINCE THEY *USED* TO CALL YOU *GOLIATH*--

OH, NO!! NOT MY BEAUTIFUL *BAY WINDOW!!*

ZIP!

--I FIGURE THIS *SLINGSHOT MANEUVER* IS SORT OF POETIC JUSTICE!

CRASH!

INTERLUDE: BRIEFLY, WE TURN TO *AVENGERS MANSION* IN NEW YORK, WHERE--

WITH THE SCARLET WITCH, IRON MAN, AND CAPTAIN AMERICA OUT OF ***ACTION***--* WE FACE THE MENACE OF MAGNETO WITH OUR ***POWER*** SORELY LACKING.

WE HAVE ***TRIED*** TO ENLIST ***OTHERS,*** THUNDER GOD--

--***FALCON, SPIDER-MAN,*** EVEN THE TIMES SQUARES ***MERCENARY*** LUKE CAGE-- ***NONE*** CAN BE LOCATED.

WAIT! WE'VE OVERLOOKED THE ***LIKELIEST*** PROSPECT-- JUST BECAUSE HE'S A CONTINENT AWAY!

THE MAN WE NEED IS... ***DAREDEVIL!***

LET'S MOVE, AVENGERS!

* SEE ***AVENGERS #110.*** --ROY

ALSO KNOWN AS:

YOU FREAKIN' RED ***HERRING!*** STAND STILL SO I CAN ***PUNCH*** YA!

BLAST!!

THUNG

STUCK MY ***BOW*** WAIST-DEEP IN THE BIG MUDDY ***LAWN!***

BUT I ***DESERVE*** IT!

I'VE BEEN TOO BLASTED ***NICE*** TO YOU, AN--

HEY--WAIT! YOU'RE NOT GONNA ***BRAIN*** ME--?

NO ***WAY,*** LOUDMOUTH!

JUST BURY YOUR ***BOW*** IS ALL.

AW--***NO!***

FUNG

BLAST YOU! WHEN I GET FREE--

--HOPEFULLY, YOU'LL HAVE SETTLED DOWN ENOUGH TO BE CIVILIZED.

OKAY, HORN-HEAD--

--SO I UNDERESTIMATED YOU.

WELL, FRIEND, YOU'VE GOT A NEWS FLASH COMIN'!

'CAUSE YOU DID THE SAME WITH ME.

AND YOU'RE GONNA FIND THAT OUT--

--RIGHT NOW!

FTHUNG!

WHAT THE--?

HOW'S THE VIEW FROM DOWN THERE, DD?

C'MON DOWN AND SEE--

MAN! HE'S TOO FAST--!

--FOR MY *FIST*, ANYWAY.

BUT NOT FOR MY EVER-TWINKLY *TOES!*

SNAP!

AND NOW THAT I'M FREE OF THOSE *BONDS*--

--YOU'RE PERFECTLY SET UP FOR MY *NEXT* MANEUVER!

OBSERVE, PEON! YOU DON'T GET TO BE AN AVENGER--

--WITH JUST ONE *SHTICK*.

CLICK

AN *ARROW*? WHEN I'M CLOSE ENOUGH TO REACH OUT AND *SNAP* IT?

ARCHER, YOU'VE *FLIPPED*.

HAVE I?

SOME ARROWS DON'T *HAVE* TO BE FIRED-- TO BE EFFECTIVE.

THIS *PHOSPHOROUS* ONE, FOR EXAMPLE!

THAT LIGHT! CAN'T SEE!

I CAN'T SEE *ANYWAY*, BUT IF I DON'T FAKE BEING "*BLINDED*"--

--MY SECRET IDENTITY IS *SHOT*! THIS IS *UNREAL*!

FAR AS *I'M* CONCERNED, THIS ROUND'S *OVER!* AND THREE GUESSES WHICH ARCHER *WON!*

SO, SINCE I'M GETTIN' *ITCHY* FIGHTIN' ON NATASHA'S *LAWN,* I THINK I'LL HITCH ME A *RIDE* ON YONDER *GREYHOUND!*

HAWKEYE, *WAIT!* THIS ISN'T *FINISHED!*

UH-UH, DD. THIS TIME *YOU* COME TO *ME!*

I'LL BE IN THE *CITY.* WHEN YOU'RE READY.

JUSK ASK AROUND FOR THE EX-AVENGER WITH THE *"H"* ON HIS HEAD!

NUTS!

THIS HAS TO BE THE MOST BIZARRE, RIDICULOUS BATTLE I'VE EVER *FOUGHT.*

NOT TO MENTION THE LEAST *GRATIFY-ING.*

IT'S SO *SENSE-LESS.*

IF ONLY HE'D LISTEN TO *REASON...*

IF ONLY HE'D LISTEN TO *ANY-THING!*

DD!!

ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?* I DIDN'T WANT TO *INTERRUPT* YOUR STUPID BRAWLING, BUT--

CUT IT, LADY. YOU CAN INSULT ME *LATER.*

WHY, WHAT A WAY TO *TALK--*

--AFTER THAT BIG MACHO STRUGGLE FOR MY PRETTY PINK *HAND.*

YOUR HAND, MY *FOOT!*

THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* BUGGING THAT GUY.

I'M *WORRIED* ABOUT HIM, TASHA.

OH, COME *ON!* CLINT'S A *BIG BOY* NOW--

--AND AN *AVENGER,* TO BOOT. HE'LL BE FINE.

HE SAID "*EX-AVENGER*", LADY.

AND HE *DOES* SEEM TO CARE FOR YOU...

I JUST WISH WE COULD SIT DOWN AND TALK IT *OUT--!*

TALK IT OUT? TALK *WHAT* OUT?

YOU TWO DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK *ABOUT!*

THIS IS *MY* DECISION-- *IF* THERE'S ONE TO BE MADE.

JUST SEE THAT YOU *REMEMBER* THAT!

HOW COULD I *FORGET?*

YOU NEVER STOP *REMIND-ING* ME!

WHILE DD SWINGS, THE WIDOW BURNS, AND THE WORLD TURNS, LET US FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN S.F. AND OUR BELEAGUERED BOWMAN HIMSELF...

NO SIGN OF DAREDEVIL YET-- AND I GOTTA WONDER--

DO I REALLY WANT HIM TO SHOW UP?

I'VE PROBABLY BLOWN IT WITH TASHA ALREADY--IF THERE WAS ANYTHING TO BLOW.

MAYBE IT'S TIME I WENT HOME--HOOKED UP WITH THE ASSEMBLERS AGAIN...

'SCUSE ME, FELLA.

"EXCUSE ME" AINT GOOD ENOUGH, FREAKER.

HELLBIRDS

MC

NOBODY BUMPS A HELLBIRD--

--WITHOUT GETTIN' WASTED!

JAZZ

BY YOU AND WHAT ARMY, SMELLY?

PHWEET

YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT, VIOLET!

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW! A WHOLE PLATOON, RIGHT OUTTA THE WOODWORK!

SAVE THE WISECRACKS FOR YER DOCTOR, CRUMB. TAKE HIM, GUYS!

APPARENTLY, YOU JOES DON'T READ THE PAPERS!

ROCK REVIVAL JAN. 3-6

OR YOU'D KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING IN THE BIG LEAGUES NOW!

SSSTT!

HEY! DUCK!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GONE BERSERK!

SSNAPP!

HE MISSED! MOVE IN ON 'IM!

SORRY, CREEPS! YOU DON'T GET THE CHANCE!

THE ARROW'S HOISTING HIM AWAY!

HEY! COME BACK HERE--

--AN' FIGHT LIKE A MAN!

FIVE AGAINST ONE--AND YOU'RE QUESTIONING MY MANHOOD?!

NOT THAT IT MATTERS, OF COURSE--

WHOMP!

--SINCE I'D PLANNED ON COMING BACK!

WISH DD COULD SEE THIS!

THAT SINKS IT!

YOU JUST BOUGHT IT, HERO!

STOP YAPPING AND RUSH HIM! RIP 'IM TO SHREDS!

NOT JUST YET, CRUD!

I'VE STILL GOT A TRICK OR TWO TO SHOW YOU GUYS!

GNUGGH!

GET 'IM! DON'T LET HIM--

--SHOOT? TOO LATE, PUNK!

DIG *THAT!* HE *MISSED!* HE COULDN'T HIT THE BROAD SIDE OF A--

BARN. OOOOH...!

IT CAME *BACK!* THE CRAZY *ARROW* CAME *BACK!!*

AN' ITS *VIBRATIN'*-- KNOCKIN' ME-- OOOOUT...

THANKS TO ITS *TUNING FORK MECHANISM* AND ITS BOOMERANG BALANCE!

HAWKEYE!! UP *HERE!*

NICE *WORK,* FELLA. I--

HEY!!

ZIP!

ZIP!

THOUGHT YOU'D CATCH ME *OFF-GUARD,* EH?

DIG IT, DD: HAWKEYE'S *NEVER* OFF-GUARD!

GAS! OVERWHELMING MY *HYPER-SENSES!*

HIS QUIVER OF TRICKS IS JUST *UNBELIEV-ABLE!*

LOOK, MAN-- I JUST WANT TO *TALK--!*

SURE YOU DO!

UH-OH... *NOW* WHAT?

AAGH!

THAT *NOISE!* *STOP* IT, HAWKEYE! *PLEASE! STOP IT!!*

YOU DON'T *LIKE* MY SONIC ARROW?

EEEEEE

IN *MY* EARS, IT'S A THOUSAND TIMES *LOUDER*--MORE *PAINFUL!* HE DOESN'T REALIZE--

THIS WEAPON CAN *KILL* ME!

RELAX! ENJOY IT! ITS JET MOTOR WILL CUT OUT IN A SECOND OR TWO.

IT'S--*STOPPING!* THANK GOD! A FEW MORE MOMENTS OF THAT WOULD'VE MADE *MUSH* OF... MY BRAIN....!

OKAY, *DD,* ON YOUR FEET. THE FIGHT'S *OVER*--

--AND THE BEST MAN WON *AGAIN!*

NOW, YOU JUST LET TASHA *GO,* AN'--

YOU...POOR *DOPE.*

I'VE BEEN *TRYING* TO *TELL* YOU--!

I HAVE NO *HOLD* OVER TASHA-- COULDN'T TIE HER DOWN IF I *WANTED* TO!

WHAA-AT!? BUT BACK AT HER *HOUSE--!* YOU--

I WAS *JEALOUS!* THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE WIDOW *CARED!*

BUT YOU WERE TOO INTO *FIGHTING* TO *NOTICE* THAT, SO--

AW, *RATS!*

--THE ONLY WAY *I* CAN FIGURE TO *STOP* YOU IS *THIS!*

SNAP!

OKAY, RED, YOU TOTALLED *MY* WEAPON--

LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO WITH *YOURS!*

NOT BAD, FOR A GUY WHO'S *NEW* AT THIS!

NOT *GOOD,* EITHER --*WATCH!*

OOOOF!

NOW--DO I *DRAG* YOU BACK TO NEW YORK--OR DO WE HAVE *PEACE?*

PEACE WITH *HONOR,* HORN-HEAD.

GIMME BACK MY *ARROWS,* AN' WE'LL CALL IT A *DRAW!*

NOT TILL *YOU* FORK OVER THE *BILLY CLUB!*

AND SO--

THEN IT'S A *DEAL!* TASHA DECIDES.

TASHA DECIDES.

FADE OUT.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO THE WIDOW'S MANSION:

BACK FROM THE *WARS*, I SEE.

VER-RY FUNNY. NATASHA, WE *HAVE* TO TALK.

YEAH. *NOW*, LADY.

LATER, HAWKEYE. IT WOULDN'T BE *POLITE* TO ARGUE IN FRONT OF *COMPANY*.

COMPANY? WHO--?

COME IN. SEE FOR *YOURSELVES*.

HELLO, MY FRIENDS.

WHA--? THE *AVENGERS*? *HERE*?

YOU!

AYE! AND THOU MUST RETURN WITH US TO THE *EAST!*

*WE CAME SEEKING **DAREDEVIL**, BOWMAN--AND WERE OVERJOYED TO LEARN OF **YOUR** PRESENCE HERE, ALSO.*

THE OTHER AVENGERS ARE *DISABLED*, HAWKEYE--

WE NEED YOUR AID AGAINST *MAGNETO*. WILL YOU REJOIN US?

STUFF IT, SYNTHOZOID! THE AVENGERS 'N ME ARE *THRU!*

YOU SPEAK TOO *RASHLY*, CLINT BARTON--

--AND WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE *DANGER* WHICH FACES US.

THINK SO? WELL, *LISTEN UP*, YOU WAKANDAN WAH-HOO--

AFTER *THIS* LITTLE NUMBER, I DON'T CARE *HOW* BAD THE AVENGERS GET IT!

I NEVER FIGURED YOU GUYS COULD *STOOP* SO LOW--!

STOOP? TRULY THY MEANING DOTH *ELUDE* ME--

E'EN AS THINE UNPROVOKED *HOSTILITY* DOTH SORELY TRY MY PATIENCE!

SAME TA *YOU*, CURLY!

NO, HAWKEYE--! YOU'RE *WRONG*! *WAIT*!

SORRY, LADY. I AINT *BUYIN'*!

LET HIM *GO*, TASHA. HIS MIND'S MADE UP.

I SUPPOSE THIS WAS *YOUR* IDEA, WIDOW--

--CALLIN' HAWKEYE'S *"BIG BROTHERS"* TO COME 'N TAKE HIM *HOME*!

BESIDES, I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT BRINGS THE *AVENGERS* TO FRISCO.

YOU DO.

WE COME WITH AN INVITATION TO YOU TO *JOIN* OUR RANKS IN THE HOUR OF OUR GREATEST PERIL.

THE *MOMENT* YOU AVENGERS LEARN ABOUT ANY CLOWN WITH A HINT OF *POWER*, YOU SHOW UP ON YOUR CONSTANT ENLISTMENT *CRUSADE!*

WHO ARE YOU SIGNING UP NEXT? BURT REYNOLDS AND DINAH SHORE?

I DON'T *KNOW*, T'CHALLA-- I'VE ALWAYS WORKED *ALONE*... MORE OR LESS.

I'M *HONORED* OF COURSE, BUT...

YOU *OWE* ME A FAVOR, *DD.** I'LL CONSIDER IT REPAID--

--IF YOU'LL JOIN US IN BATTLE AT LEAST THIS *ONCE.*

*DOES HE *EVER!* SEE *DD/BW #92* --ROY.

AS SORT OF A FREE *HOME TRIAL?*

OKAY-- YOU'RE *ON!*

THEN--*TO BATTLE!* THOR-- PANTHER-- VISION-- DAREDEVIL--

--AND *BLACK WIDOW,* AS WELL--

AVENGERS ALL!

AND SO, ABOARD ONE OF THE ASSEMBLERS' *QUINJETS,* THE FIVE STAR-CROSSED HEROES RETURN TO MANHATTAN TO FACE THE MADDENING MENACE OF *MAGNETO!*

JOIN THEM IN THE PAGES OF *AVENGERS #111* FOR THAT SOUL-STIRRING SAGA. AND ONCE YOU'VE SAVORED IT--AND RECOVERED FROM ITS *SHOCK ENDING*--JOIN *US* BACK HERE FOR NEXT MONTH'S EPOCH-MAKING *HUNDREDTH ISSUE* OF *DAREDEVIL!* *'NUFF SAID!*

AVENGERS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES!

the AVENGERS®

OKAY, MAGNETO-- MAYBE YOU AMBUSHED THE AVENGERS--

BUT HERE COMES DAREDEVIL--

--AND THE BLACK WIDOW!

WITH TWO BESIDE THEM!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!®

WITH TWO BESIDE THEM!

DANCE, MY BLANK-EYED BEAUTY!

DANCE TO MY TUNE, BECAUSE I, MAGNETO, CONTROL YOUR EVERY GRACEFUL MOVEMENT!

IS IT NOT SO, FAITHFUL PIPER?

OH YES, WISE ONE!

AS WITH THE OTHER AVENGERS YOU HAVE CLEVERLY CAPTURED, ALONG WITH THE MUTANT X-MEN--

THE SCARLET WITCH'S ONLY THOUGHTS ARE THOSE YOU HAVE GIVEN HER TO THINK! FOR NOW--

MAGNETO RULES MINDS!

A WORD TO THE WISE, FRANTIC ONE! IF YOU HAVEN'T READ AND RELISHED DAREDEVIL #99 (NOW ON SALE), YOU'D BETTER GET ON THE STICK! OUR TALE IS COMPLETE IN AND OF ITSELF-- BUT YOU'LL FIND SOME ADDED DIMENSIONS BY CHECKING OUT OL' HORNHEAD'S BOOK, TOO. WE HAVE SPOKEN!

13752

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HOW LONG IT HAS TAKEN TO REACH THAT GOAL, PIPER-- YET EVER SINCE I FIRST DISCOVERED MY MAGNETIC POWER OVER IRON, I HAVE DESIRED NOTHING ELSE!

IT ALWAYS SEEMED POSSIBLE! ALL I REQUIRED WAS THE LEARNING OF IT!

THE MIND OF A HUMAN-- OR A MUTANT-- IS NOURISHED BY BLOOD... AND THAT CRIMSON FLUID ALSO CARRIES CERTAIN NATURAL CHEMICALS, USED BY THE BRAIN, FROM ONE PART TO ANOTHER.

BLOOD, PIPER, HAS A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF IRON IN ITS MAKEUP.

THUS, I HAVE LEARNED TO CONTROL THAT IRON AND SLOW THAT FLOW OF BLOOD TO THE BRAIN--

-- SO THAT MY VICTIMS HAVE ONLY THE CONSCIOUSNESS I ALLOW THEM!

I PERMIT THEIR BRAINS ENOUGH BLOOD TO KEEP THE ORGANS FROM VEGETATING, OF COURSE--FOR I MAY NEED THESE PEOPLE SOME DAY.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME, THEY ARE MY SLAVES--THE FIRST IN A MIGHTY ARMY OF MINDLESS MINIONS I SHALL CREATE!

--AND THEY SHALL HELP ME DO IT!

NO ONE CAN STOP ME--NOT EVEN THE OTHER AVENGERS!

REMEMBER HOW WE LEFT THEM IN RUINS?

I DO, MASTER.

YET WILL THEY NOT REGROUP AND ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THIS SECRET SANCTUARY?

OF COURSE! AVENGERS NEVER ADMIT DEFEAT!

BUT THEY ARE DECIMATED, PIPER--DECIMATED! ONLY THOR, THE VISION, AND THE BLACK PANTHER REMAIN OUT OF MY HANDS--

AND THE THREE OF THEM CAN NEVER STOP MY HORDES!

YET NOW, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE MALIGNANT MASTER OF MAGNETISM, THERE ARE MORE THAN THREE WHO STAND AGAINST HIM.

THE SPECTRE OF DEFEAT HAS ALSO HAUNTED THE AVENGERS -- FOR WITH THE RECENT "RETIREMENTS" OF QUICKSILVER AND HAWKEYE, ADDED TO THE SEIZURE OF THE ASSEMBLERS PREVIOUSLY SEEN, THEY ARE INDEED GREATLY BELOW THEIR USUAL STRENGTH...

...AND SO, THEY HAVE FLOWN TO SAN FRANCISCO, TO ENLIST THE AID OF DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR -- AND HIS BEAUTEOUS PARTNER, THE BLACK WIDOW!

BUT THERE HAS BEEN A PRICE.

HAWKEYE -- REFUSING YOUR PLEA FOR HELP! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT OF HIM!

I CAN, I'M AFRAID. AFTER WANDA DECLARED HER LOVE FOR ME INSTEAD OF HIM, HE WAS LIKE A BURNED CHILD.

HE NEEDED SOMEONE, AND HE RAN TO YOU, MADAME NATASHA: HIS FIRST LOVE.

"HE DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE TIMES HAD CHANGED -- THAT YOU NOW CARE FOR DAREDEVIL --

POW!

-- SO HE STRUCK OUT BLINDLY, PITTING HIMSELF IN FRUITLESS COMBAT AGAINST HIS RIVAL --

-- AND WHEN THE AVENGERS ARRIVED, HE WAS IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN. HE UNDOUBTEDLY THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO REPLACE HIM EVEN BEFORE THE DUST OF HIS LEAVING HAD SETTLED.

AND I TREATED HIM SO BADLY! I NEVER EVEN GAVE HIM A CHANCE TO REALLY EXPLAIN!

MAYBE -- THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

THE MAGNIFICENT QUINJET BANKS AND LANDS, DISGORGING ITS FIVE DISSIMILAR PASSENGERS ONTO THE GRAY PEBBLES OF THE AVENGERS' ROOF. BUT ONCE INSIDE, ONLY FOUR SEEM TO HAVE THEIR MINDS ON THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN. YOU WON'T NEED ME FOR A WHILE.

SHE'S RIGHT, PEOPLE. WE'RE BOTH WILLING TO HELP ANY WAY WE CAN --

--BUT FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME, YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE FOGGIEST IDEA WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

SADLY, DAREDEVIL, THAT BE TRUE.

WELL, WE *DO* KNOW MAGNETO WANTED THE *X-MEN* FOR SOME REASON-- AND AFTER HE DEFEATED *THEM*, HE TRIED TO TRAP *US*.

IN PARTICULAR, HE WANTED *WANDA*--THE *SCARLET WITCH*.

I KNOW WHO THE LADY IS-- EVEN IF SHE *WASN'T* AROUND THE *LAST* TIME I WAS HERE. *

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE IN FOR A LITTLE *WAIT*-- UNTIL MAGGIE MAKES *HIS* MOVE--

*IN *SPIDEY SPECIAL* #3 (HUH?)--ROY.

HOLD IT! MY FINGERS-- *FEELING* THIS NEWS-PRINT--!

UM... THIS *STORY* I JUST READ--

IT SAYS A *CONFERENCE* FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE *ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION* IS BEING HELD TODAY--

--JUST *FIFTY MILES* FROM HERE!

ATOMICS BE THE PRIME CAUSE OF *MUTATIONS*, AND MAGNETO'S FIELD OF *INTEREST*!

PERHAPS, DAREDEVIL-- PERHAPS THOU HAST PROVIDED THE *KEY*!

--THE KEY TO MY *HEART*, CLINT BARTON-- I WISH I TRULY *KNEW* WHERE IT WAS.

NOW, IT SEEMS TO LIE WITH *MATT*, MY SWASHBUCKLING *PARTNER*--AND YEARS AGO, IT BELONGED TO MY HUSBAND, *ALEXI*, WHOM THE WORLD KNEW AS THE *RED GUARDIAN*. *

BUT IN BETWEEN... THERE WAS *YOU*.

STANDING HERE IN THE ROOM YOU CALLED YOUR *OWN*, LOOKING DOWN AT THE SAME *VIEW*-- I WONDER...

...HOW OFTEN DID YOU STAND HERE AND THINK OF *ME*?

*ISSUES #43-44. --R.

OH, HAWKEYE, HAWKEYE... THEY SAID YOU WERE LIKE A *CHILD*.

IF SO, YOU ONLY NEEDED ME AS A WOMAN IN SO MANY *MORE* WAYS THAN *ONE*...

...AND I FAILED YOU IN *ALL* OF THEM.

NATASHA, YOUR BOYFRIEND'S COME UP WITH A *LEAD*, AND THEY SENT ME UP TO *FIND* YOU.

WE WANT TO GET *MOVING*.

BOYFRIEND--? OH...OH *YES*, T'CHALLA.

LET'S GET *OUT* OF THIS PLACE!

*BUT WE CAN'T GO ON TALKING ABOUT THE BELEAGUERED **BOWMAN** BEHIND HIS **BACK** LIKE THIS--AND SO, WE CUT TO **SAN FRAN:***

HOT CHA CHA, HERO.

YOU REALLY PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT *THIS* TIME-- RIGHT UP TO THE *THIGH*.

THE *WIDOW-LADY* CAN'T TAKE YOU-- THE *AVENGERS* FOLLOW YOU AROUND, NOT TO MAKE *NICE*, BUT TO SIGN UP YOUR *ENEMIES*...

LOOKS TO *ME* LIKE YOU'VE BURNED ALL YOUR *BRIDGES* DOWN TO *LOW-WATER LEVEL*.

--NO *OFFENSE*, GOLDEN GATE.

BUT, *BLAST* IT, I *STARTED* WITHOUT A FRIEND TO MY NAME-- WITHOUT *ANYTHING*--

--AND I WORKED MY WAY UP TO THE *TOP*, FROM *CARNY PERFORMER* TO *SUPER-VILLAIN* TO *SUPERHERO!* I CAN DO IT *AGAIN*, TOO!

SO *WHAT* IF EVERYBODY TURNS THEIR BACK ON ME? SOME DAY *SOON*, THE NAME OF *HAWKEYE* WILL MEAN MORE THAN THE AVENGERS, DAREDEVIL, AND THE BLACK WIDOW PUT *TOGETHER*!

YEAH...

ENOUGH OF THIS MARCHING AROUND INSIDE PEOPLE'S *HEADS*! IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE *LONG* VIEW OF THINGS--

--JUST AS SOME SINISTER, SILHOUETTED *LURKERS* ARE DOING.

AT *LAST*: COMMISSIONER ALFRED'S HOUSE! OUR HOUR HAS *ARRIVED*!

AND INSIDE...

GENTLEMEN, I'VE CALLED THIS SPECIAL CONFERENCE AT MY *HOME*, RATHER THAN OUR *USUAL* MEETING PLACE--

--DUE TO RECENT *INTELLIGENCE REPORTS* TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO *CAPTURE* ONE OF OUR ATOMIC BASES BY *PERSONS UNKNOWN*.

THESE ARE PROBABLY *RADICALS*, SO I HAVE ASKED THE *SECRET SERVICE* FOR *DOUBLED* PROTECTION TODAY.

IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, WE IN *AUTHORITY* CANNOT BE TOO *CAREFUL*.

ALFRED! GOOD LORD, MAN--!

BRRAK!

THE OAKEN TABLE IS RIPPING ITSELF APART!

EXCELLENT, WANDA! EVEN SAPPED OF YOUR WILL, YOU MAKE GOOD USE OF YOUR MUTANT HEX POWER!

NOW REMAIN QUIET, MY ONCE AND FUTURE COHORT-IN-CRIME! GIVE THEM AN EASY TARGET!

GET 'ER, DICK!

CRIPES! THE GUN JUST FLEW OUT OF MY HAND!

I WISH TO SEE THEIR TERROR-- WHEN I DISARM THEM BEFORE THEY FIRE!

DON'T YOU SEE WHO THEY ARE? IT'S WANDA THE WITCH, THE ONE WHO USED TO BE A CROOK-- AND HER OLD BOSS, MAGNETO!

I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD-- BUT IF HE'S COME BACK TO LIFE, HE'S COME FOR A PUNCH IN THE JAW!

NOT A CHANCE, T-MAN! NOT WHEN I CAN CONTROL THE POWERS OF ALL MY SLAVES MYSELF--

--AND ONE OF MY SLAVES IS THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN!

THEN, WASTING NO MORE BREATH ON WORDS, MAGNETO GESTURES HYPNOTICALLY--

--AND ENTER STAGE RIGHT: CYCLOPS, MARVEL GIRL, AND THE ICEMAN...

OF ALL THE **COMBATANTS**, ONLY THE NON-SUPER **PROTECTORS** MOVE AS IF THEY HAD A WILL TO **WIN**--

POW!

--BUT FACING THE **ZOMBIE-LIKE** MINIONS OF MAGNETO, THEY **LOSE!**

FOR **WHO** COULD BEST THE ABILITIES OF EVEN THE **YOUNGEST** SUPER-SLAVE?

ICEMAN! DON'T **DO** THIS!

HE CANNOT **HEAR** YOU, T-MAN! **HIS** BRAIN IS **MY**-- **AHA!**

WHILE I TURNED MY ATTENTION **ELSEWHERE,** CYCLOPS WAS UNABLE TO **DEFEND** HIMSELF!

BIFF!

BUT, THOUGH I CANNOT BE **EVERYWHERE** AT ONCE--

THE OPPOSITION IS SO **WEAK,** IT DOES NOT **MATTER.**

THUS, WITHIN **MINUTES,** THE DEFENSE IS **LOST**-- AND THE BEATEN **GOVERNMENT MEN** ARE LED, SHEEPLIKE, AWAY.

BUT HAS THE BATTLE **TRULY** ENDED-- OR ONLY JUST **BEGUN?**

HOLD, MAGNETO! THE **AVENGERS** SHALL NOT **PERMIT** THEE TO DEPART!

THAT'S TELLING HIM, THUNDER GOD!

IRON MAN-- HERD THOSE MEN INTO MY SHIP!

YOU OTHERS-- FOLLOW HIM!

HURRY UP, FRED! HIS THERMAL RAYS ARE RIGHT ON MY HEELS!

THOU SHALT NE'ER AGAIN DISMAY US WITH FLYING BOULDERS, VILLAIN!

THE AVENGERS HAVE WELL LEARNED THEIR LESSON FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER!

NOW, LET SACRED MJOLNIR TEACH THEE THE FOLLY OF THY SCHEMES!

BUT, AS THE ENCHANTED URU HAMMER WHISTLES THROUGH THE STILL AIR--

--ANOTHER METALLIC OBJECT ARCS TO INTER-CEPT IT--

-- AND GUIDED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FABLED SKILL, THE SHIELD IS ABLE TO DEFLECT THE MALLET!

BLAST! THAT WAS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION SHOT!

HE MAY HAVE NEW SUPER-STRENGTH, BUT THE STAR-SPANGLED AVENGER COULD NEVER PROTECT MY CRAFT A SECOND TIME!

THEREFORE, SINCE MY CAPTIVES ARE NEARLY FINISHED BOARDING, I MUST RELEASE THE OCTOFUMES!

CAN'T SEE! ALL THIS BLACK SMOKE--!

FEAR NOT, MILADY! I BE THE GOD OF THUNDER, OF STORM--

--AND OF WIND!

YET, AS QUICKLY AS I BLOW YON SMOKE HENCE, E'EN MORE DOTH FLOW FORTH!

THE SHIP IS RISING, DO!

BUT I THINK-- WE'VE GOT A CHANCE--!

YOU'RE ON, PAL!

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE ACTUALLY WORKED TOGETHER!

WHAT WAS THE OLD SONG? "FIRST YOU PUT YOUR TWO HANDS OUT IN FRONT--"?

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

SAY, DIDN'T YOU USED TO HAVE AN ACT CALLED THE FLYING WAKANDAS?

NO, I REMEMBER-- THOSE WERE THE WALLENDAS. DOES THAT BLOW OUR SHOT ON THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW?

HE WAS CANCELLED TWO YEARS AGO, HORNHEAD!

OH, WELL.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, T'CHALLA! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE RETURN FLIGHT!

--IF THERE IS ONE, I MEAN.

THE HYPER-SENSES I'VE DEVELOPED SINCE GOING BLIND MADE THE SMOKE NO DIFFERENT FROM A SUNNY DAY ON THE BAY TO ME--

--BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I STOPPED AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD I'M GOING TO DO WITH THIS SHIP WAY UP HIGH IN THE SKY!

OH, OH -- HE'S *ACCELERATING!* TIME TO CAN THE *JOKES* AND HANG ON FOR *DEAR LIFE!*

IF I CAN ONLY REACH THAT *PORTHOLE*-- AND MAYBE CLIMB *INSIDE*--

ZZZAAAPP!!

=UHHHH= *ELECTRIFIED!*

FALLING--

I *ALWAYS* PLAY FOR *HIGH STAKES*, YOU CRIMSON CLOWN-- AND *THIS* TIME THEY ARE THE HIGHEST *EVER!*

I ADMIRE YOUR LACK OF *FEAR*, BUT NOT IF IT BLURS INTO *STUPIDITY*--

--AND PLAYING AGAINST *MAGNETO* IS THE *SHEEREST* OF STUPIDITY!

DAREDEVIL! GRAB FOR MY *WIDOW'S WEB!*

PLEASE! IT'S YOUR *ONLY CHANCE!*

GOT IT, TASH! BUT I WOULDN'T SAY IT WAS MY *ONLY* CHANCE--

--NOT WHEN I'VE STILL GOT MY *BILLY CLUB!*

THANKS FOR *THINKING* OF ME THOUGH, HONEY. YOUR *HEART'S* IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

BLAST! WHY DID I HAVE TO SAY *THAT?*

HOWEVER, DD'S FLASH ON HOW HE STANDS WITH THE WIDOW IS CLEARLY SECONDARY TO THE JOB AT HAND!

NOW DOTH ONLY THE *SON OF ODIN* POSSESS THE POWER OF *FLIGHT* NEEDED TO OVERTAKE YON VESSEL!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE VOICE OF MAGNETO ONCE MORE FILLS THE AIR!

BACK, THOR! OTHERWISE, IRON MAN WILL DROP CAPTAIN AMERICA--

--THEN HE AND ALL MY OTHER SLAVES WILL LEAP AFTER HIM!

FIE! E'EN I COULD NOT CATCH THEM ALL! IT DOTH MEAN DEATH FOR MY FRIENDS SHOULD I CONTINUE--

--SO I MUST NEEDS ALLOW THE VILLAIN TO DEPART, THOUGH IT GRIEVETH MY VERY SOUL!

BE THERE NO LIMIT TO THE FIEND'S INFAMY? HOW MAY WE BATTLE A MAN WITH HOSTAGES?

GOOD POINT, THOR. LOOKS LIKE YOUR RECRUITING NATASHA AND ME HASN'T DONE AS MUCH GOOD AS YOU'D HOPED, WITH BATTLES SO HARD TO COME BY.

AND NOW, WE'VE RUN OUT OF LEADS.

MAYBE... AND MAYBE NOT.

SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME, AND I JUST REALIZED WHAT!

MAGNETO CALLED OUT DINOSAURS ON US AT THE X-MEN MANSION! * THEY DIDN'T COME FROM THIN AIR-- THEY MUST HAVE BEEN HOLED UP NEARBY!

IF WE FIND THAT PLACE, IT MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE!

...BUT HOW DO WE FIND IT?

* LAST ISH.--R.

YOU FORGET THAT I'VE SMELLED THE REPTILES, AND ONCE THE PANTHER LEARNS A SCENT--

HEY! HAVE WE ALL GONE PUNCHY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, T'CHALLA?

WE'VE BEEN STANDING HERE TALKING, AND NEVER ONCE NOTICED:--

THE VISION IS GONE!

THAT HE IS, BUCKOS--BUT WHEN HE VANISHED, AND WHETHER IT WAS UNDER HIS OWN STEAM AND OF HIS OWN FREE WILL, ARE QUESTIONS WE HAVE NO MORE ANSWERS FOR THAN THE SUDDENLY REELING AVENGERS.

THUS, LET US HOLD OUR CURIOSITY FOR THE MOMENT, AND LOOK IN UPON THE PLAYERS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

SO YOU ARE THE MEN WHO HOLD THE KEY TO AMERICA'S ATOMIC ENERGY!

UNLIMITED POWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS--AND YET YOU REMAIN FACELESS CIVIL SERVANTS, WORKING FOR A SALARY!

HOW YOU CAN LIVE WITH YOURSELVES IS A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO ME!

I, GENTLEMEN, WAS BORN TO RULE--TO MAKE OTHERS GROVEL AT MY FEET!

IF I HAD YOUR OPPORTUNITIES, I WOULD NOT LET THEM LANGUISH AN INSTANT--

--AND I SHALL HAVE THEM!

"FOLLOWERS ARE THE STAFF OF LIFE ITSELF TO ME! IN THE BE-GINNING, I HAD MY BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, INTO WHOSE RANKS I BLACKMAILED THE SCARLET WITCH AND QUICK-SILVER!

"LATER, WHEN I BECAME TRAPPED IN KA-ZAR'S SAVAGE LAND, I CREATED MY SUPPORTERS BY MUTATING SWAMP MEN! PIPER, HERE, " IS ONE OF MY RESULTS!

NOW I PLAN TO CREATE EVEN MORE MUTANTS--AN ARMY OF THEM--AND YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE ME THAT KEY I SPOKE OF BEFORE!

YOU ARE GOING TO TELL ME HOW I MAY GAIN ACCESS TO ALL THE ATOMIC POWER IN THIS COUNTRY--

--SO THAT I CAN LOOSE IT UPON THE POPULACE!

I COMPUTE THAT THE SEARING RADIATION WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY 92% OF THOSE IT TOUCHES... BUT THE REMAINDER--THE STRONG--WILL BECOME MUTANTS...

...MUTANTS THAT ARE MINE TO COMMAND!

YOU'RE MAD! STARK-STARING MAD!

YOU CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS!

BUT I DO! NO ONE CAN STOP ME!

I'VE CAPTURED THE X-MEN--AND BEATEN THE AVENGERS AT EVERY TURN!

YOU SEE, MAGNETO'S PLANS COVER ALL EVENTUALITIES!

"I TRIED OUT THIS SCHEME ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE MONTHS AGO,* AND IT WAS WELL I DID. THE DEVICE I PLANNED TO USE EXPLODED, RELEASING RADIATION FATAL TO NON-MUTANTS.

"AS IT WAS, I WAS BADLY INJURED, AND SPENT THOSE MONTHS FIGHTING MY WAY BACK TO LIMITED HEALTH.

"YET, NOW I AM WHOLE AGAIN, DUE TO MY MASTERFUL PLANS! I HAD BEEN GRIEVOUSLY HURT BEFORE, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE SAVAGE LAND, AND SWORE AT THAT TIME TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE!

"THUS, WHEN THE X-MAN CALLED ANGEL FELL INTO MY HANDS, I TRICKED HIM INTO WEARING A COSTUME OF MY DEVISING-- A COSTUME THAT WOULD GRADUALLY ABSORB HIS YOUTHFUL MUTANT ENERGY!

*AMAZING ADVENTURES #9-10. --R.

"YESTERDAY, THEN, I PAINFULLY STOLE INTO THE X-MEN'S BASE--

"--AND DRUGGED MY VICTIM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

"I STRIPPED THE TREACHEROUS UNIFORM FROM HIS BODY AND DONNED IT MYSELF, CAUSING IT TO IMBUE ME WITH ITS COLLECTED POWER!

"AT THAT MOMENT, MAGNETO WAS REBORN!

"WHEN THE X-MEN DISCOVERED ME, IT WAS TOO LATE! I BESTED THEM ALL BY CONTROLLING THEIR BRAINS-- AND THEN LAID A TRAP FOR THE AVENGERS!

"MISTAKING ME FOR THE ANGEL IN THE DARK, THEY WERE EASY PREY!"

AND YOU DARE SAY I CANNOT SUCCEED? I, WHO HAVE DONE ALL THAT?

STOP WASTING MY TIME--

--AND TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!

PAL, I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE HENRY KISSINGER IN DISGUISE! WE'LL NEVER BETRAY OUR TRUST!

YOU FOOLS! DO YOU THINK THIS IS A DEBATE?

YOU WILL TALK--

--BECAUSE I WILL TAKE OVER *YOUR* MINDS!

:*ARRRGH!*: CAN'T-- FIGHT IT--

I DIDN'T *WANT* TO DO IT THIS WAY. *EXTRACTING* THE INFORMATION WILL REQUIRE *MUCH* MORE TIME--

--BUT *TIME* IS SOMETHING I HAVE *PLENTY* OF!

YOU'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION "FAMOUS LAST WORDS"...?

THIS IS THE *PLACE!* THE *TYRANNOSAURUS* IN PARTICULAR, HAS A SCENT WHICH *NO ONE* COULD FORGET--

OKAY, T'CHALLA-- BUT AFTER HAVING LOST *HALF* THE TEAM *AND* THE BAD GUY, TRAILING *DINOSAURS* SEEMS--

--*IF* THAT PERSON UNDERSTANDS THE ANCIENT TRIBAL *SECRETS* OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE *PANTHER GOD!*

HOLD IT! I FEEL... *VIBRATIONS* FROM BELOW THIS SPOT! THERE MUST BE A *CAVE* DOWN THERE!

I KNOW NOT HOW YOU *PERCEIVE* SUCH THINGS, DAREDEVIL--

--YET *NEITHER* DO I FEEL THE NEED TO *QUESTION!*

RATHER, I SHALL *ACT!*

CHOOM!

WITH ONE MIGHTY BLOW, THE GOD OF THUNDER BLASTS A GAPING HOLE IN THE CRAGGY GRANITE, AND THEN--

BY ODIN'S BEARD! WE HAVE FOUND OUR GOAL!

HOW CAN THEY HAVE *FOUND* ME? I THOUGHT I LEFT NO FAINTEST *TRACE!*

NO *MATTER!* *ATTACK,* MY MIND-SLAVES!!

*THEN, IN ONE OF THE **STRANGEST** BATTLES EVER RECORDED, THOR AND THE PANTHER ARE FORCED TO **DEFEND** THEMSELVES--*

*--AGAINST THE MANIACAL **ONSLAUGHT** OF THEIR OLDEST AND CLOSEST **FRIENDS!***

STAY THY *HAND,* AVENGER! I HAVE NO WISH TO *HURT* THEE!

BLANG!

*YET THE BRAIN WHICH **GUIDES** THESE MANY ATTACKERS BELONGS TO ONLY **ONE MAN**-- A MAN WHO CAN ACT **RASHLY** UNDER STRESS--*

*--FOR AN **AWARE** IRON MAN WOULD **NEVER** ATTEMPT TO FIGHT THE THUNDER GOD BY TRYING TO HOLD BACK HIS **HAMMER!***

THAT ONLY GIVES THOR A LEVER--

--WITH WHICH HE CAN MOVE A WORLD-BEATER!

THOOM!

IRON MAN WILL FIGHT NO MORE THIS DAY!

HOWEVER, WHAT MAGNETO LACKS IN FINESSE, HE RECOVERS IN THE NUMBER OF HIS SERVITORS!

ZOT!

THUNDER GODS SHOULD BE SEEN BUT NOT HURT, CYCLOPS!

FOOM!

TIME FOR SOME SHUT-EYE, X-MAN! JUST RELAX--

WHAT SOMETHING'S GOT ME!

AND THAT SOMETHING IS A TACITURN ICEMAN!

ICE IS A *TREAT* TO ONE BORN IN THE *JUNGLE*, FRIEND!

MAGNETO WILL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN *THIS!*

NOT THAT I WANT TO GIVE HIM A *CHANCE!*

THE *SLOWNESS* OF HIS SLAVES COMPARED TO *MY* FELINE SPEED SUITS ME JUST FINE *NOW!*

PLOW!

THE YOUTHFUL X-MAN REACTS NOT AT *ALL* AS HE SLAMS TO THE FLOOR--

--BUT WHEN HE *DOES* REACT, IT'S DONE *WELL!*

I'VE STRAINED EVERY SENSE I'VE *GOT* TO THE *LIMIT*, AND STILL I CAN'T FIND ANY SIGN OF THE *VISION!* WHERE CAN HE--

OH, OH! *T'CHALLA* NEVER *WAS* ABLE TO FINISH CYCLOPS!

AND IF *I* DON'T GET IT TOGETHER--

--HE'LL FINISH *ME!*

HOW *ABOUT* THAT? THE MAN WHO'S ALL *EYES*--

--AGAINST A *BLIND MAN!* THE AVENGERS WOULD *FLIP* IF THEY *REALLY* KNEW WHAT'S GOING ON!

BUT THAT'S MY *SECRET*, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE!

"*EYES* GOT A SECRET," YOU MIGHT SAY!

BAP!

HOWEVER, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THIS IS NO ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT!

MARVEL GIRL'S LEVITATED DD--AND WANDA'S PULLING THE CEILING DOWN ON HIM!

ONLY ONE HOPE--

--AND THAT'S TO GET THE MAN IN CHARGE OFF HIS PERCH AND PUT HIM WHERE THE ACTION IS!

WHAT?

ALL RIGHT, MAGNETO: USE YOUR OWN POWER TO KEEP THOSE ROCKS OFF DAREDEVIL, OR YOU'LL BE JUST AS BIG A PANCAKE AS HE WILL!

EASILY DONE, YOU CONFOUNDED MEDDLER, BUT I'LL NOT STOP THERE!

I HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO OVERRIDE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS' MINDS, BECAUSE WATCHING YOU STRUGGLE WAS MORE AMUSING--

--BUT I AM NO LONGER AMUSED!

OHHH!

HA HA! THIS IS THE END OF THEM, PIPER!

THE X-MEN... THE AVENGERS... AND SOON THE WORLD--ALL WITHIN MY GRASP!

KUD

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO *COUNT*, MADMAN.

YOU ARE *ONE* AVENGER SHORT.

GOOD *LORD!* THAT'S NOT HIS *VOICE*, AND MY SENSES *STILL* SAY *DIFFERENT*-- BUT THAT'S *GOT* TO BE...

...THE *VISION!*

CORRECT, DAREDEVIL.

I AM *WITHIN* THE BODY OF THIS MUTANT FLAUTIST--YET STILL SO NEARLY *INTANGIBLE* AS TO SAVE ALL HIS *ORGANS* FROM HARM.

ONLY MY *BRAIN* HAS BEEN SOLIDIFIED *JUST* ENOUGH TO DIRECT HIS MOVEMENTS.

--MY ANSWER TO MAGNETO'S *MIND CONTROL.*

BUT LET ME NOW FLOW *FORTH*, SO YOU MAY SEE FOR *YOURSELF.*

I *ENTERED* THE PIPER'S FORM UNDER COVER OF MAGNETO'S *BLACK FOG* EARLIER.

HOWEVER, SINCE STAYING WITHIN ANOTHER'S BODY COULD HAVE *GRAVE CONSEQUENCES* FOR *BOTH* OF US, I HAD TO DELAY ANY *ACTION* UNTIL I WAS *CERTAIN* I KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO *PERFORM* IT.

BUT, *VISION*-- YOU'VE NEVER DARED *TRY* THAT BEFORE! THE *RISK*--

--WAS ONE I *HAD* TO TAKE... FOR *YOU*, WANDA.

THEN, AFTER A REVIVED **PROFESSOR X** HAS USED HIS MUTANT POWER TO PUT MAGNETO INTO A **DEEP SLEEP**...

I CAN RECALL **EVERY-THING** THAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS IN OUR FOE'S POWER--

--AND I CAN SEE, BY READING YOUR **MINDS**, THAT YOU FARED **SIMILARLY**, MY X-MEN.

BUT THAT LEADS ME TO A TERRIBLE **QUESTION**: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE **ANGEL**?

THAT'S **RIGHT!** IRON MAN **SEARCHED** OUR MANSION AND COULDN'T **FIND** HIM!

I FEAR...THE X-MEN MAY HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM **ONE** DILEMMA--ONLY TO BE PLUNGED **DIRECTLY** INTO A **WORSE** ONE!

YOU **CALLED** IT, PROF--AS WE SHALL SEE IN THE NEAR **FUTURE**.

BUT FIRST, CLOSER TO HOME...

THE AVENGERS OWE YOU TWO A GREAT **DEBT** FOR YOUR HELP.

EVEN WITHOUT **CONFERRING**, I CAN TELL YOU WE'D LIKE TO **REPAY** IT BY MAKING YOU BOTH **OFFICAL** AVENGERS!

THANKS, CAP--WE **APPRECIATE** IT... BUT WE'LL HAVE TO **DECLINE**.

PERSONAL REASONS.

MEANING THAT ALWAYS HAVING A **GROUP** AROUND ME WOULD BE TOO **CONFUSING** FOR MY **SENSES**, I'D BE **SWAMPED** WITH IMPRESSIONS.

PLUS, IT WOULD BE MUCH **HARDER** TO KEEP THOSE SENSES A **SECRET**. IT'S **TOO BAD**, BUT--

WAIT A MINUTE, AVENGERS! **I** ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

HUH? TASH, YOU **CAN'T**!

OH YES I **CAN**! YOU DON'T **OWN** ME!

AND IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO BE **AWAY** FROM YOU, MATT... SO I CAN **THINK THROUGH** OUR **RELA-TIONSHIP**.

ALL **RIGHT**! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU **WANT** IT!

YOU'LL FIND **ME** BACK IN **SAN FRANCISCO**.. IF YOU'RE EVER **LOOKING**!

OH, **MATT**! WHY DON'T YOU EVER **UNDERSTAND** ME?

COME ON, TEAM-MATES... WE **MUST** HAVE THINGS TO **DO**.

AS YOU MAY HAVE **GUESSED**, NEXT MONTH'S ISSUES OF BOTH THE **AVENGERS** AND **DARE-DEVIL** ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME MILDLY INTERESTING **DEVELOPMENTS**--AND DON'T TAKE **ANYTHING** FOR GRANTED. AFTER **ALL**, THIS IS **MARVEL**! SEE YOU NEXT TIME, SAHIB!

DAREDEVIL
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GUARANTEE: YOU'VE NEVER READ A STORY QUITE LIKE... MINDSTORM!

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MIND STORM!
LOW OVER SAN FRANCISCO BAY SWOOPS A SLEEK AVENGER'S QUINJET-- ITS LONE PASSENGER-- THE SIGHTLESS ADVENTURER CALLED DAREDEVIL!
HIS HYPERSENSITIVE FINGERTIPS READ THE DIALS AND METERS HIS EYES CANNOT SEE. AND HE KNOWS THAT HE IS ... HOME?
NO--NOT HOME. JUST... BACK... ALONE, LEARNING IN THAT WINDSWEPT COCKPIT THE MEANING OF SOULPAIN.
1331Z
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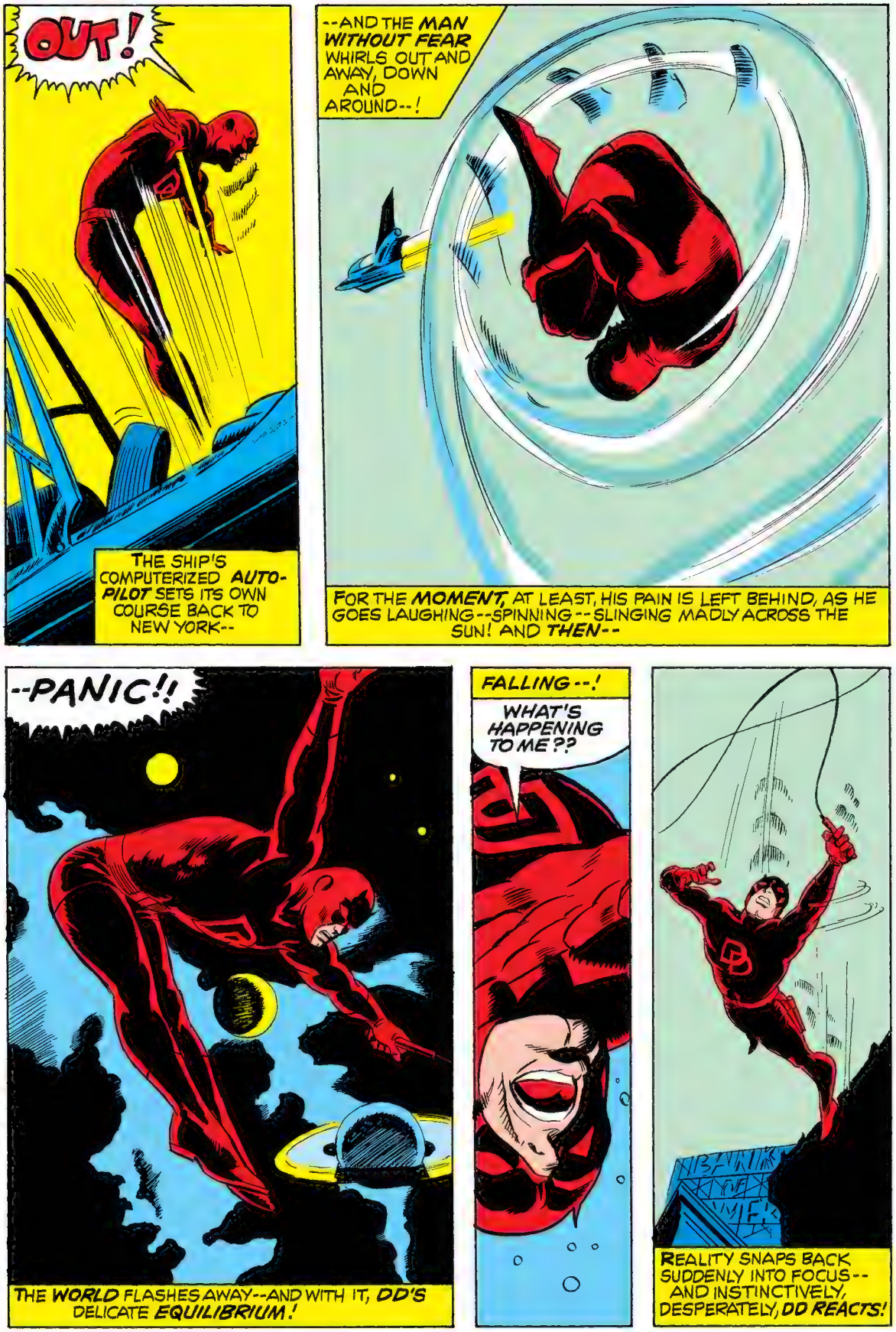
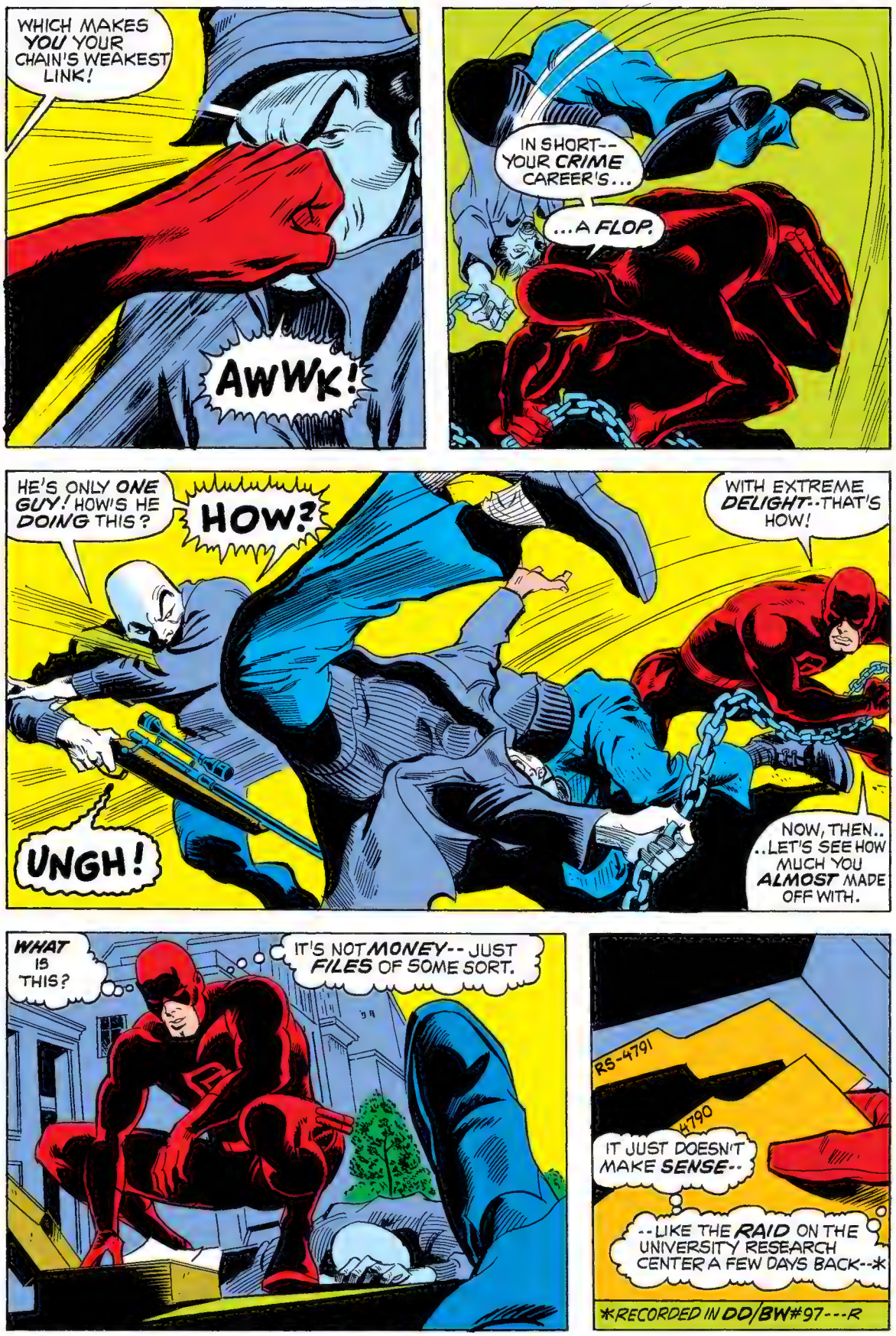
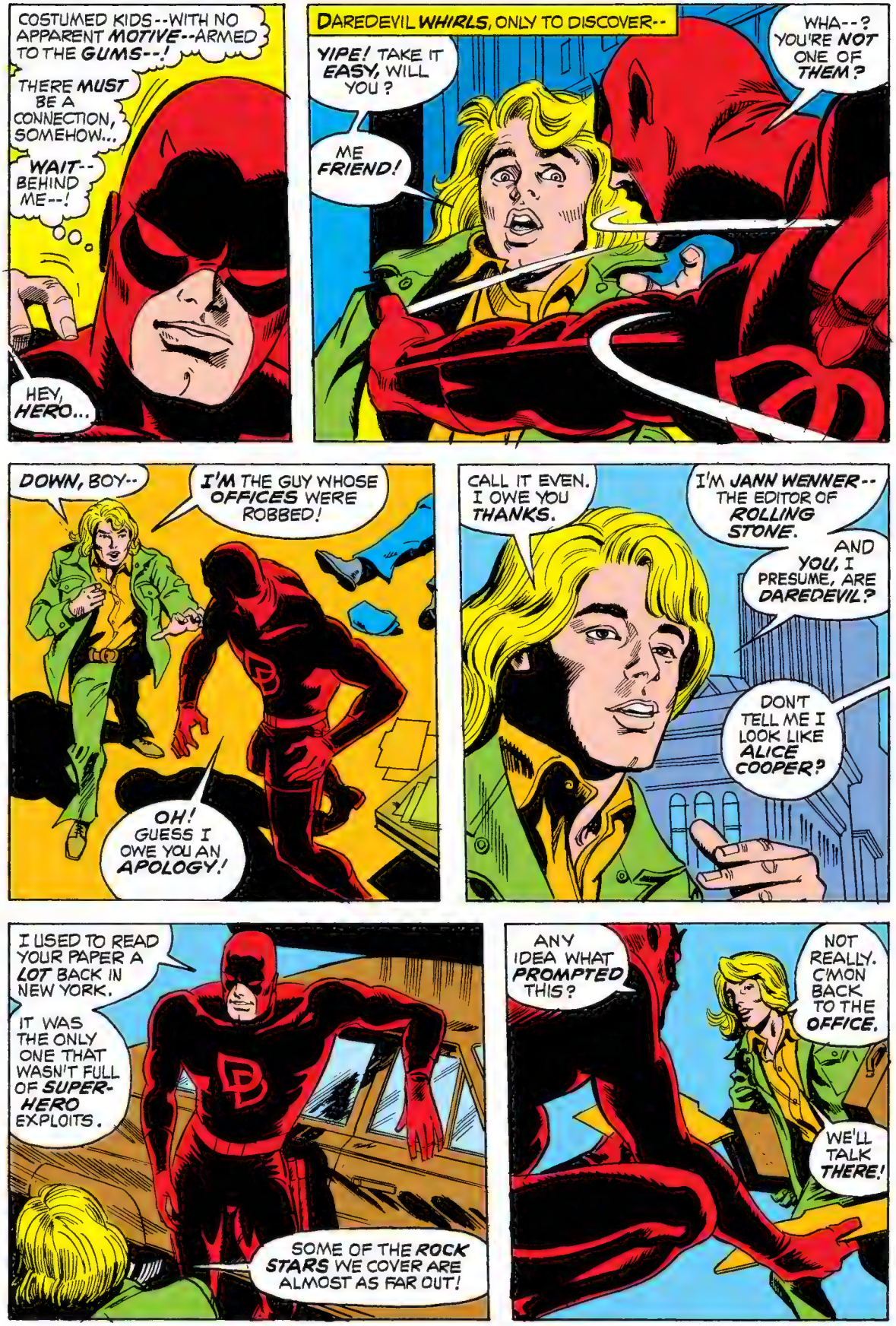
AN IMAGE PAINTS ITSELF ON HIS CONSCIOUSNESS...
OKAY, TASHA, YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO. YOU'RE AN AVENGER NOW.*
AND YOU'RE IN NEW YORK--AND I'M HERE.
AND WE NEVER SAID WE LOVED EACH OTHER, ANYWAY--RIGHT?
*IT HAPPENED IN AVENGERS #110.--ROY.
SO WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHY I FEEL LIKE A BADLY-USED MOP?
A FLYING MOP, AT THAT--
--JUST LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LAND?
WHICH REMINDS ME: I'D BEST DO THAT LITTLE THING!
ON
CLICK
WHOA, NOW! WHAT'S THIS?
LEAVE IT TO TONY STARK TO BUILD A SCANNER AS FINELY-TUNED AS MY RADAR SENSE!
THAT, FOLKS, IS A ROBBERY ---DOWN ON THIRD STREET!
"ROBBERY"--SPELLED A-C-T-I-O-N!
JUST WHAT THE SHRINK WOULD'VE ORDERED!
SOOO... OVER WE GO!
OVER AND--
SEAT EJECT
AUTO PILOT TURN

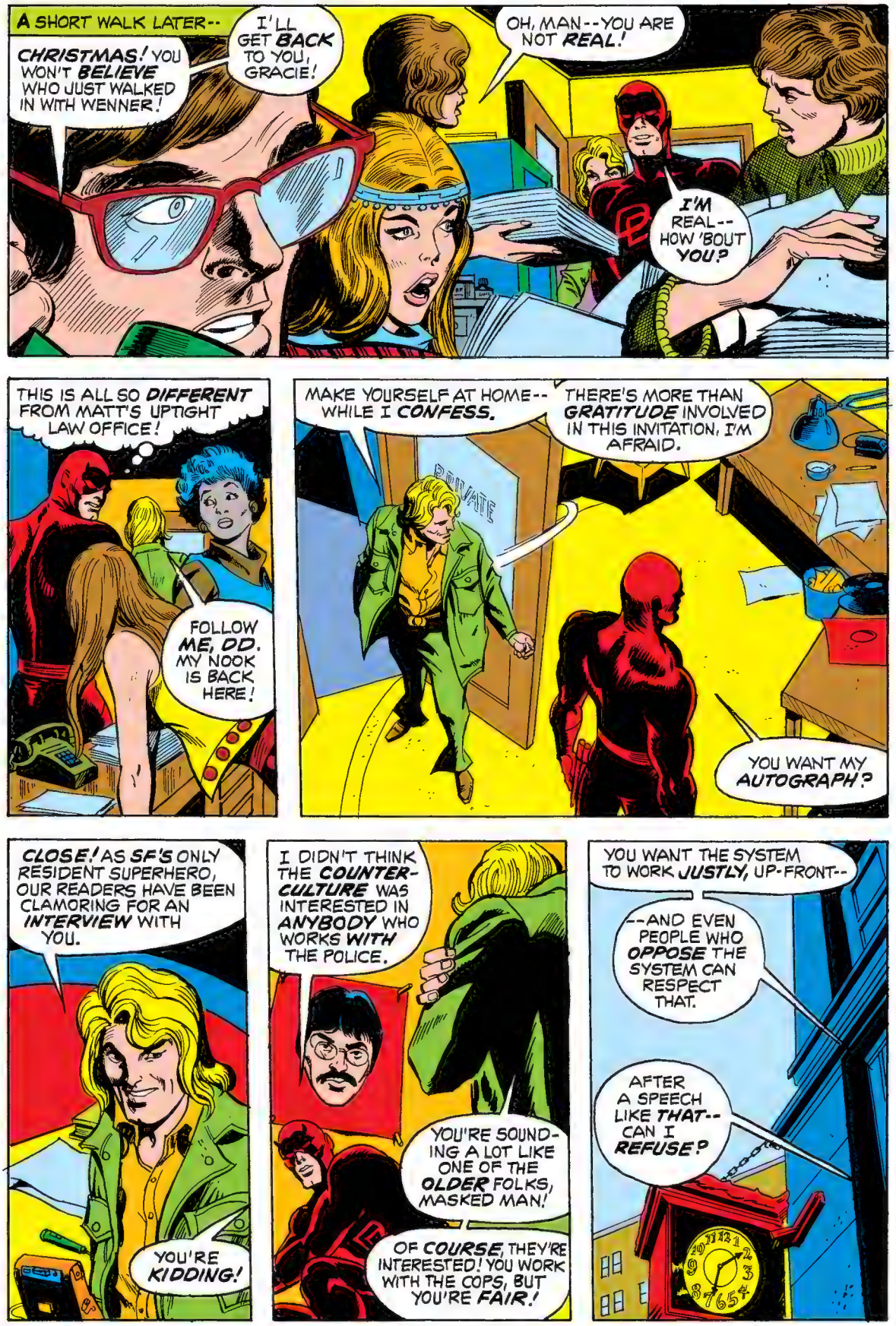

OUT!
THE SHIP'S COMPUTERIZED AUTO-PILOT SETS ITS OWN COURSE BACK TO NEW YORK--
--AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR WHIRLS OUT AND AWAY, DOWN AND AROUND--!
FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, HIS PAIN IS LEFT BEHIND, AS HE GOES LAUGHING--SPINNING--SLINGING MADLY ACROSS THE SUN! AND THEN--
--PANIC!!
THE WORLD FLASHES AWAY--AND WITH IT, DD'S DELICATE EQUILIBRIUM!
FALLING--!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME??
REALITY SNAPS BACK SUDDENLY INTO FOCUS--AND INSTINCTIVELY, DESPERATELY, DD REACTS!

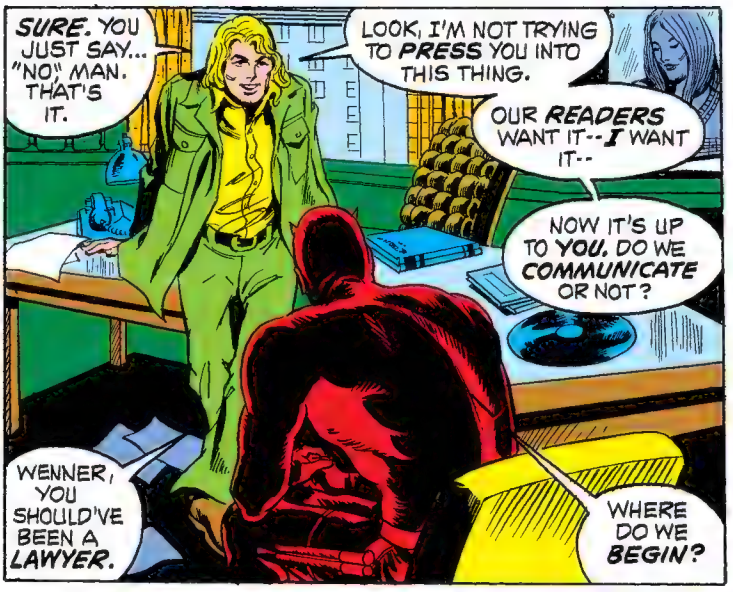
WHEW! ALMOST LEFT A LOT MORE THAN MY HEART--ALL OVER SAN FRANCISCO!
BUT--WHAT HAPPENED? FOR A SECOND, I COULD'VE SWORN I WAS IN--OUTER SPACE?
BETTER GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF--AND THE POLE, HERO.
ANYWAY, YONDER ROBBERY'S STILL IN PROGRESS.
SO, I MAY AS WELL MAKE MYSELF USEFUL!
BESIDES, BETWEEN TASHA AND MY "2001" NUMBER UP THERE--I'VE GOT ONE HECKUVA MAD TO WORK OFF. ERGO--
HEADS UP, PUNKS! DD'S BACK IN TOWN!
IT'S DAREDEVIL!! TAKE HIM!

LAY OFF, MASKED MAN! I'LL USE THIS! I WILL!
AN' HE AIN'T ALONE--SO SPLIT, RED! NOW!
STRANGE--WHEN I HIT THEM, SOMETHING RUBBED OFF THEIR FACES ONTO MY GLOVES--GREASEPAINT?
I'M FIGHTING AN ARMED "STREET THEATRE" TROUPE.
THIS CITY SURE IS FULL OF SURPRISES TODAY!
I'M WARNIN' YOU--STAY BACK!
FIRE, SANDY!
HEY!!
A MAN COULD GET HURT LIKE THAT!
MAMA, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BAD!
HURT IS THE NAME OF THE GAME, PIG! I DIG HURT!
I'LL HURT ANYTHING--MEN WOMEN, KIDS, DOGS --PIGS!
'SPECIALLY SUPER-PIGS!
MISTER, YOU'RE A SICKO!


WHICH MAKES YOU YOUR CHAIN'S WEAKEST LINK!
AWWK!
IN SHORT-- YOUR CRIME CAREER'S...
...A FLOP.
HE'S ONLY ONE GUY! HOW'S HE DOING THIS?
HOW?
WITH EXTREME DELIGHT--THAT'S HOW!
UNGH!
NOW, THEN.. ..LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU ALMOST MADE OFF WITH.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S NOT MONEY-- JUST FILES OF SOME SORT.
RS-4791
4790
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE--
--LIKE THE RAID ON THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER A FEW DAYS BACK--*
*RECORDED IN DD/BW#97---R


COSTUMED KIDS--WITH NO APPARENT MOTIVE--ARMED TO THE GUMS--!
THERE MUST BE A CONNECTION, SOMEHOW...
WAIT--BEHIND ME--!
HEY, HERO...
DAREDEVIL WHIRLS, ONLY TO DISCOVER--
YIPE! TAKE IT EASY, WILL YOU?
ME FRIEND!
WHA--? YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM?
DOWN, BOY--
I'M THE GUY WHOSE OFFICES WERE ROBBED!
OH! GUESS I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY!
CALL IT EVEN. I OWE YOU THANKS.
I'M JANN WENNER--THE EDITOR OF ROLLING STONE.
AND YOU, I PRESUME, ARE DAREDEVIL?
DON'T TELL ME I LOOK LIKE ALICE COOPER?
I USED TO READ YOUR PAPER A LOT BACK IN NEW YORK.
IT WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT WASN'T FULL OF SUPER-HERO EXPLOITS.
SOME OF THE ROCK STARS WE COVER ARE ALMOST AS FAR OUT!
ANY IDEA WHAT PROMPTED THIS?
NOT REALLY. C'MON BACK TO THE OFFICE.
WE'LL TALK THERE!

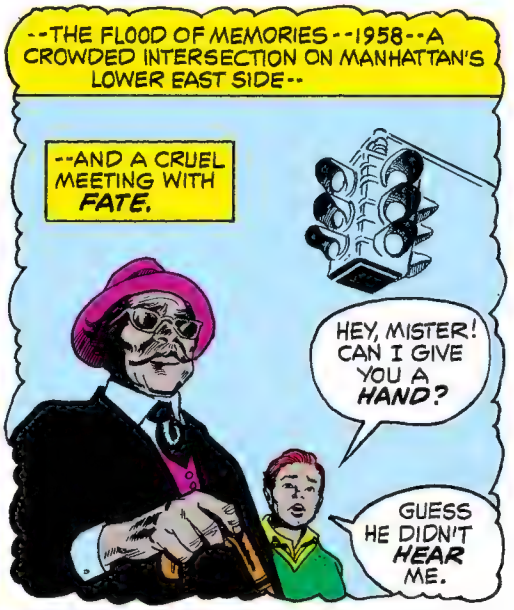

A SHORT WALK LATER--
CHRISTMAS! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHO JUST WALKED IN WITH WENNER!
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU, GRACIE!
OH, MAN--YOU ARE NOT REAL!
I'M REAL--HOW 'BOUT YOU?
THIS IS ALL SO DIFFERENT FROM MATT'S UPTIGHT LAW OFFICE!
FOLLOW ME, DD. MY NOOK IS BACK HERE!
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME--WHILE I CONFESS.
THERE'S MORE THAN GRATITUDE INVOLVED IN THIS INVITATION, I'M AFRAID.
PRIVATE
YOU WANT MY AUTOGRAPH?
CLOSE! AS SF'S ONLY RESIDENT SUPERHERO, OUR READERS HAVE BEEN CLAMORING FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH YOU.
YOU'RE KIDDING!
I DIDN'T THINK THE COUNTER-CULTURE WAS INTERESTED IN ANYBODY WHO WORKS WITH THE POLICE.
YOU'RE SOUNDING A LOT LIKE ONE OF THE OLDER FOLKS, MASKED MAN!
OF COURSE, THEY'RE INTERESTED! YOU WORK WITH THE COPS, BUT YOU'RE FAIR!
YOU WANT THE SYSTEM TO WORK JUSTLY, UP-FRONT--
--AND EVEN PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE THE SYSTEM CAN RESPECT THAT.
AFTER A SPEECH LIKE THAT--CAN I REFUSE?


SURE. YOU JUST SAY... "NO" MAN. THAT'S IT.
LOOK, I'M NOT TRYING TO PRESS YOU INTO THIS THING.
OUR READERS WANT IT--I WANT IT--
NOW IT'S UP TO YOU. DO WE COMMUNICATE OR NOT?
WENNER, YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN A LAWYER.
WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

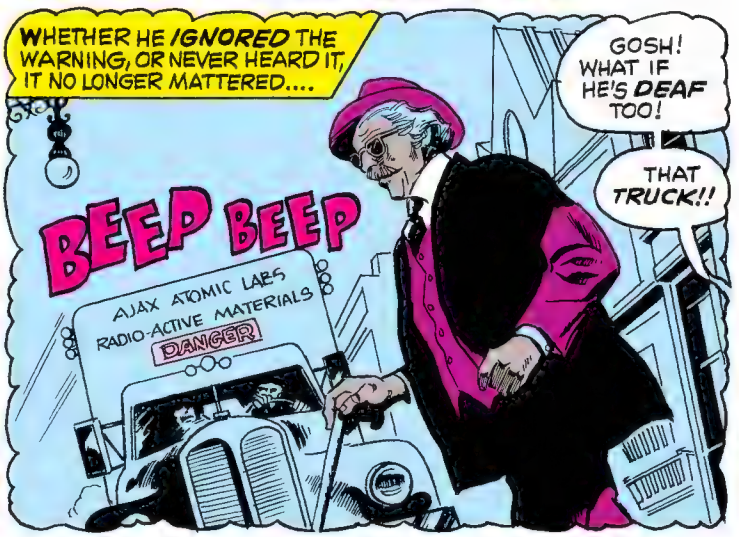
WITH THE BIG ONE: WHO ARE YOU UNDER THOSE HORNS?
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE SECOND QUESTION.
OKAY, THEN-- HOW DID IT START?
HOW'D YOU BECOME A SUPERHERO?

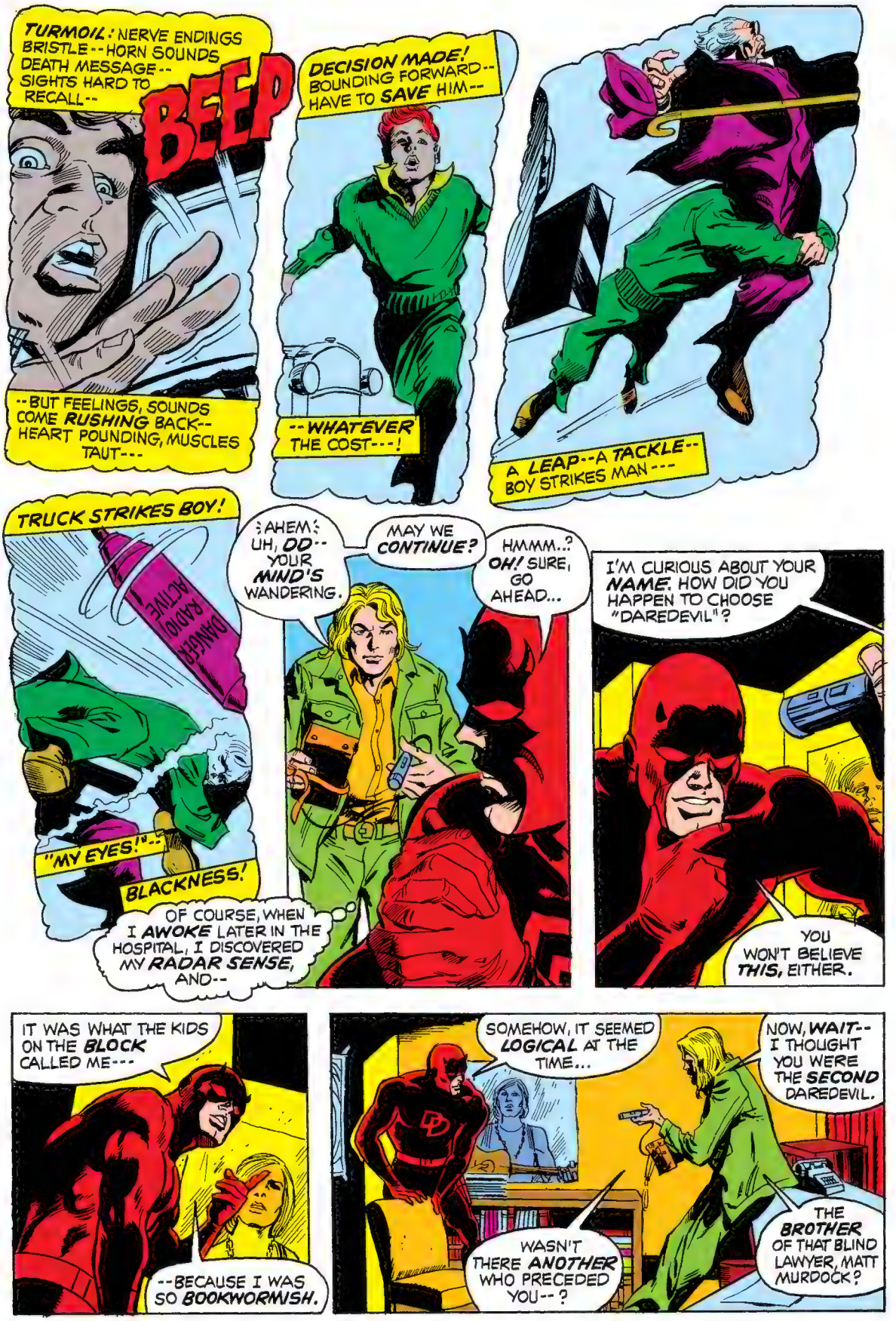
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS--BUT I HELPED A BLIND MAN ACROSS A STREET--
--AND IT CHANGED MY LIFE.

I'M SORRY, JANN...
I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT...
BUT NEITHER CAN HE STOP--


--THE FLOOD OF MEMORIES--1958--A CROWDED INTERSECTION ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE--
--AND A CRUEL MEETING WITH FATE.
HEY, MISTER! CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?
GUESS HE DIDN'T HEAR ME.

MISTER--WAIT! THE TRAFFIC'S TOO HEAVY!
WAIT!!

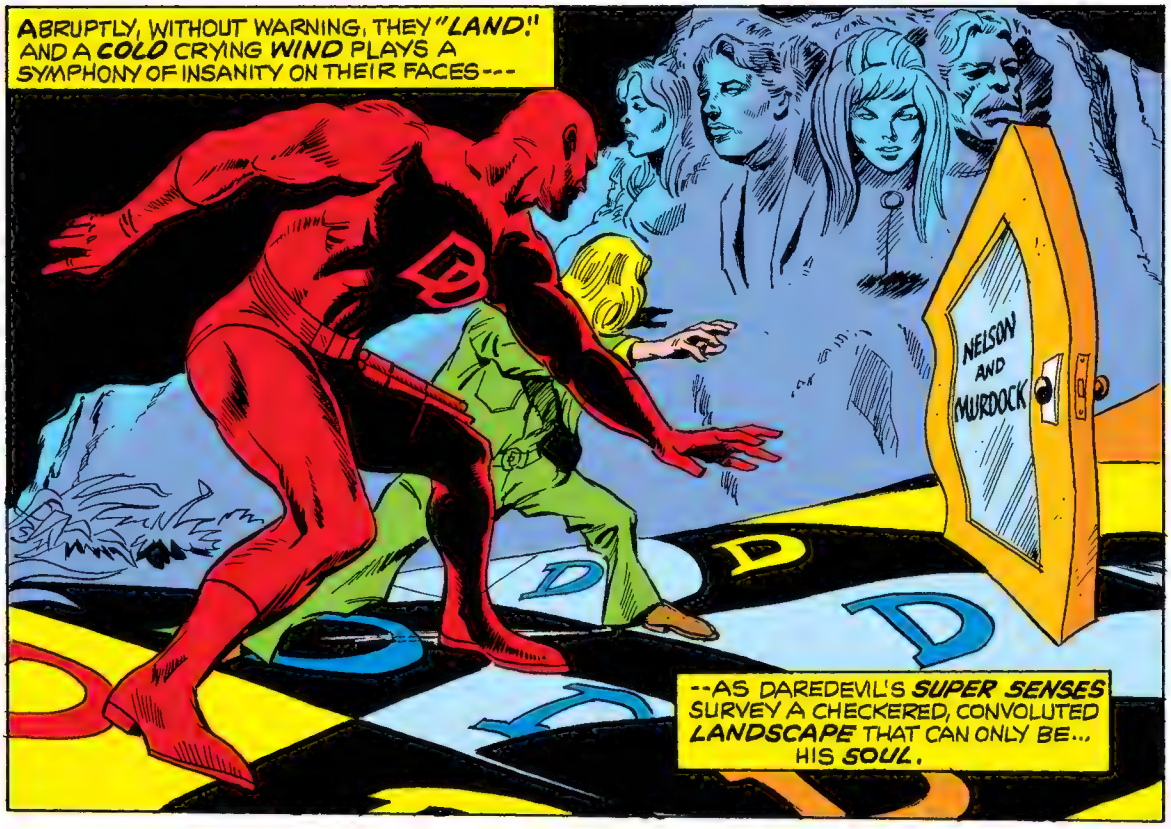

WHETHER HE IGNORED THE WARNING, OR NEVER HEARD IT, IT NO LONGER MATTERED....
BEEP BEEP
AJAX ATOMIC LABS
RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIALS
DANGER
GOSH! WHAT IF HE'S DEAF TOO!
THAT TRUCK!!

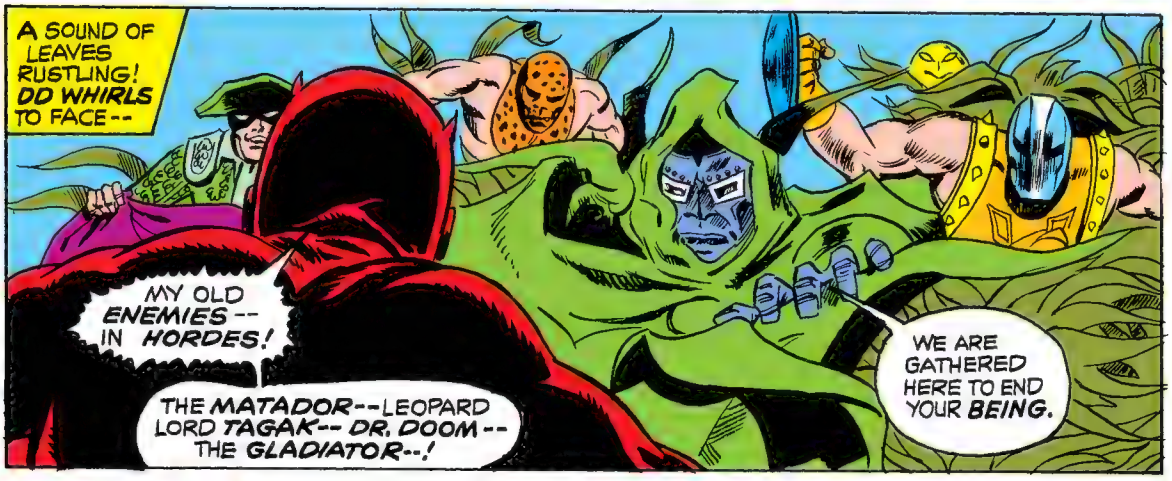

TURMOIL: NERVE ENDINGS BRISTLE--HORN SOUNDS DEATH MESSAGE--SIGHTS HARD TO RECALL--
BEEP
--BUT FEELINGS, SOUNDS COME RUSHING BACK--HEART POUNDING, MUSCLES TAUT---
DECISION MADE! BOUNDING FORWARD--HAVE TO SAVE HIM--
--WHATEVER THE COST---!
A LEAP--A TACKLE--BOY STRIKES MAN---
TRUCK STRIKES BOY!
DANGER RADIO ACTIVE
"MY EYES!"--
BLACKNESS!
OF COURSE, WHEN I AWOKE LATER IN THE HOSPITAL, I DISCOVERED MY RADAR SENSE, AND--
:AHEM: UH, DD--YOUR MIND'S WANDERING.
MAY WE CONTINUE?
HMMM..? OH! SURE, GO AHEAD...
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR NAME. HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO CHOOSE "DAREDEVIL"?
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, EITHER.
IT WAS WHAT THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK CALLED ME---
--BECAUSE I WAS SO BOOKWORMISH.
SOMEHOW, IT SEEMED LOGICAL AT THE TIME...
NOW, WAIT--I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SECOND DAREDEVIL.
WASN'T THERE ANOTHER WHO PRECEDED YOU--?
THE BROTHER OF THAT BLIND LAWYER, MATT MURDOCK?

CAUGHT AGAIN IN THE "BIG LIE"!
UH, WELL, ACTUALLY--- MIKE MURDOCK AND I WERE BOTH DAREDEVIL AT FIRST.
WE SWITCHED OFF-- TOOK TURNS. BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO CHOSE THE NAME.
I WONDER-- WILL THAT ONE INSANE IDEA OF CREATING A THIRD IDENTITY FOR MYSELF EVER STOP PLAGUING ME?
YOU'RE HIDING MORE THAN YOU'RE TELLING, DD.
NOT EXACTLY THE MAKINGS OF AN IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW.
OF COURSE! THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T TELL YOU.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CAN'T TELL ANYONE!
WHY DO YOU THINK I HAVE TO WEAR A MASK?
BECAUSE OF A PROMISE I CAN NEVER BREAK--
YOU'RE GONNA STUDY, MATT--- BECOME A LAWYER, OR A DOCTOR--
NOT A PUG-UGLY SCRAPPER LIKE ME.
OKAY, DAD.
BATTLING MURDOCK, A PRIZEFIGHTER PAST HIS PRIME--WHOSE ONLY HOPE OF JUSTIFYING HIS EXISTENCE RESTS IN HIS SON.
AND YOUNG MATT MURDOCK, WHO COULD NOT CONFINE HIMSELF TO SCHOLARLY PURSUITS, AND SO TRAINED SECRETLY--
--KEEPING HIS BODY AS FIT AS HIS MIND.

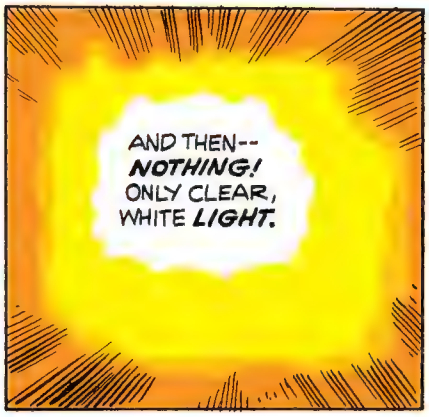
THE ELDER MURDOCK DIED YEARS LATER AT GANGSTERS' HANDS, WHEN HE REFUSED TO "THROW" A FIGHT--
BAM
AND THE VENGEANCE MATT SOUGHT AGAINST HIS FATHER'S MURDERERS LED HIM TO ADOPT THE GUISE OF--
DAREDEVIL! OH, WHAT'S THE USE? EVERY TIME I ASK YOU SOMETHING HEAVY--
--YOU DRIFT OFF INTO LIMBO!
SUDDENLY, FROM THE STREET--
YAAA
GOOD LORD! SOMEONE'S IN AGONY DOWN--
THE SENTENCE IS NEVER FINISHED. FOR WHAT MAN CAN SPEAK--WHEN REALITY HAS ABANDONED HIM?
THE FLOOR AND WALLS OF WENNER'S OFFICE MELT AND FLOW AWAY--
--HURLING MAGAZINE EDITOR AND MAN WITHOUT FEAR INTO A MAELSTROM OF MADNESS...
...UNTIL...
OH, WOW--I BELIEVE IN THE COSMIC GIGGLE, MAN....
...BUT THIS IS MORE LIKE A GALACTIC BELLY LAUGH!
WHERE ARE WE?
BEFORE DD CAN ATTEMPT TO REPLY--

THE EARTH YAWNS OPEN BENEATH THEM--
--AND THEY PLUNGE INTO THE VOID.
AND, THEN, FROM A DARK CORNER OF SPACE--
IT CAN'T BE--THE JESTER!!
THE WHAT--?
AND THE LEAP FROG!
WHY ARE THEY SO SILENT? WHY DON'T THEY SAY SOMETHING?!

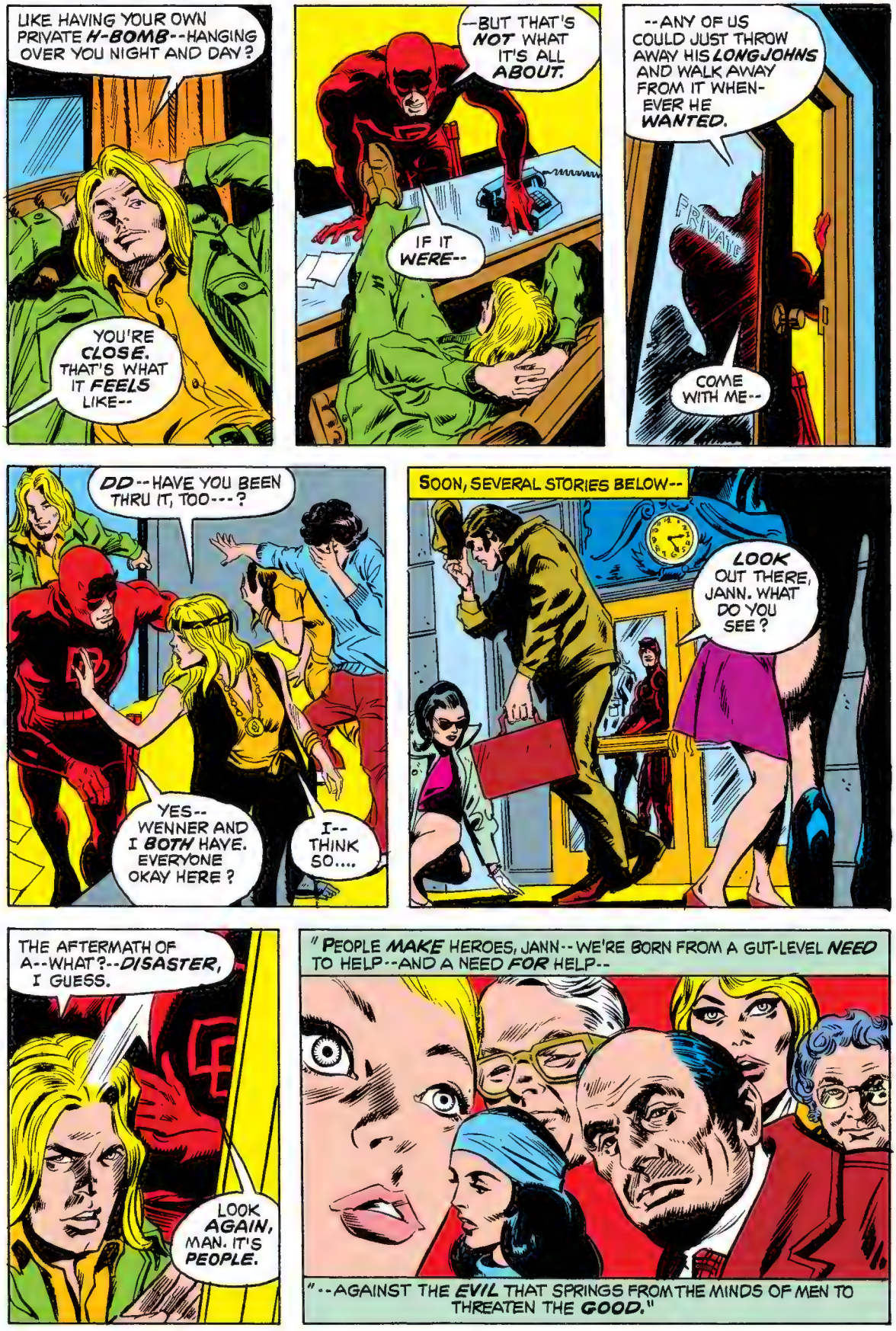

ABRUPTLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THEY "LAND!" AND A COLD CRYING WIND PLAYS A SYMPHONY OF INSANITY ON THEIR FACES---
NELSON AND MURDOCK
--AS DAREDEVIL'S SUPER SENSES SURVEY A CHECKERED, CONVOLUTED LANDSCAPE THAT CAN ONLY BE... HIS SOUL.

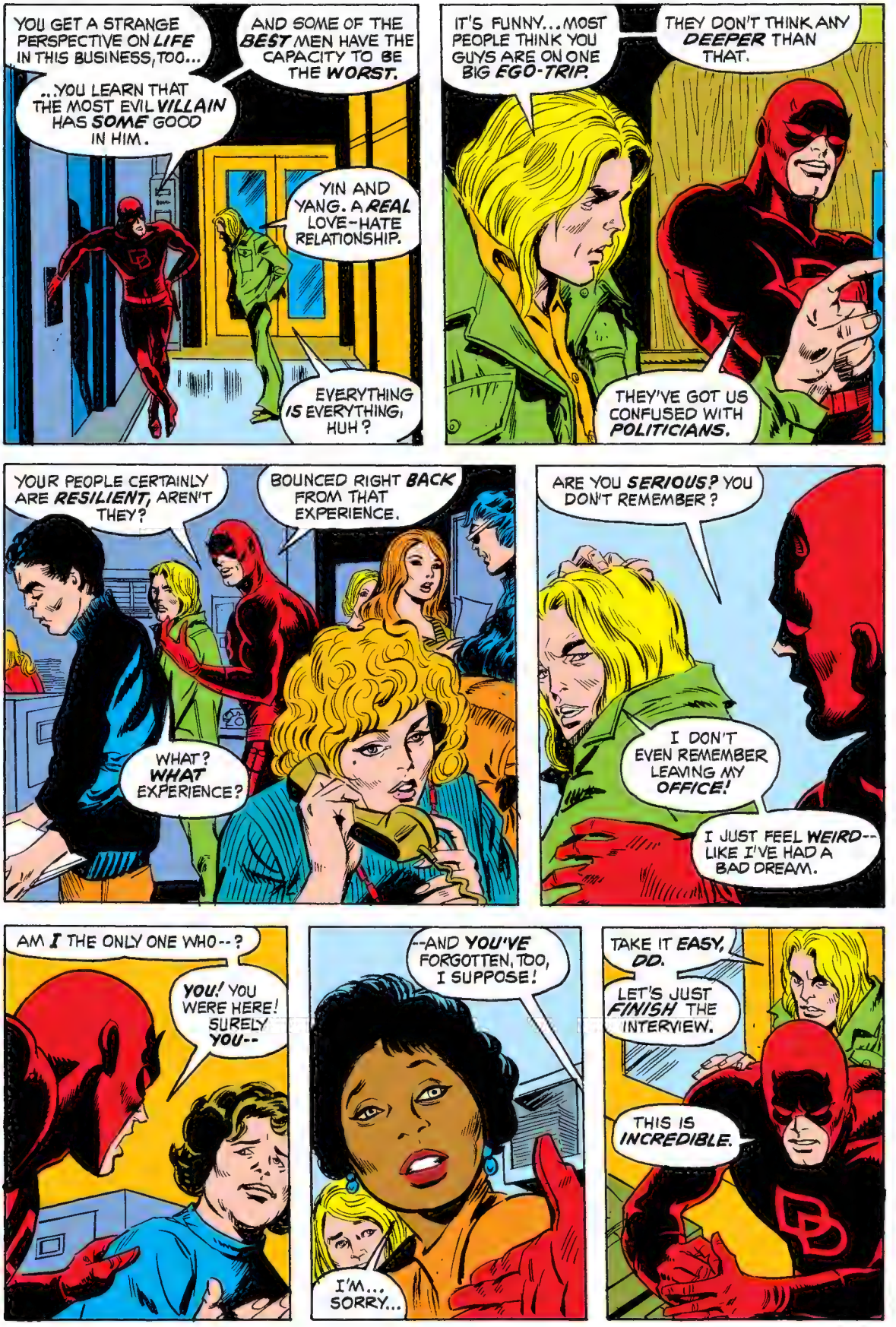

A SOUND OF LEAVES RUSTLING! DD WHIRLS TO FACE--
MY OLD ENEMIES -- IN HORDES!
THE MATADOR--LEOPARD LORD TAGAK-- DR. DOOM -- THE GLADIATOR--!
WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO END YOUR BEING.

TOO MANY OF THEM-- THERE'S NO ESCAPE! WE'VE HAD IT!

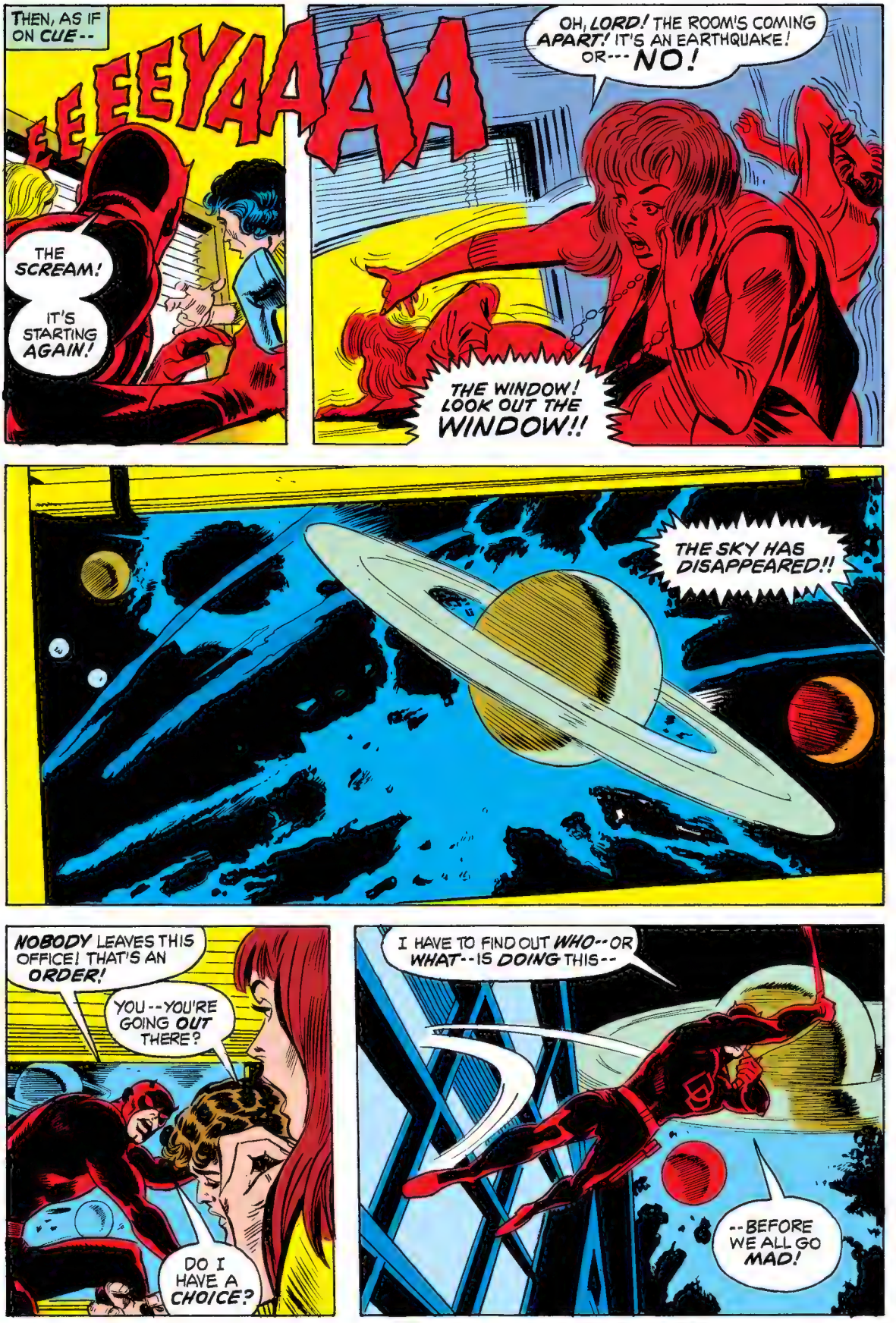

AND THEN-- NOTHING! ONLY CLEAR, WHITE LIGHT.

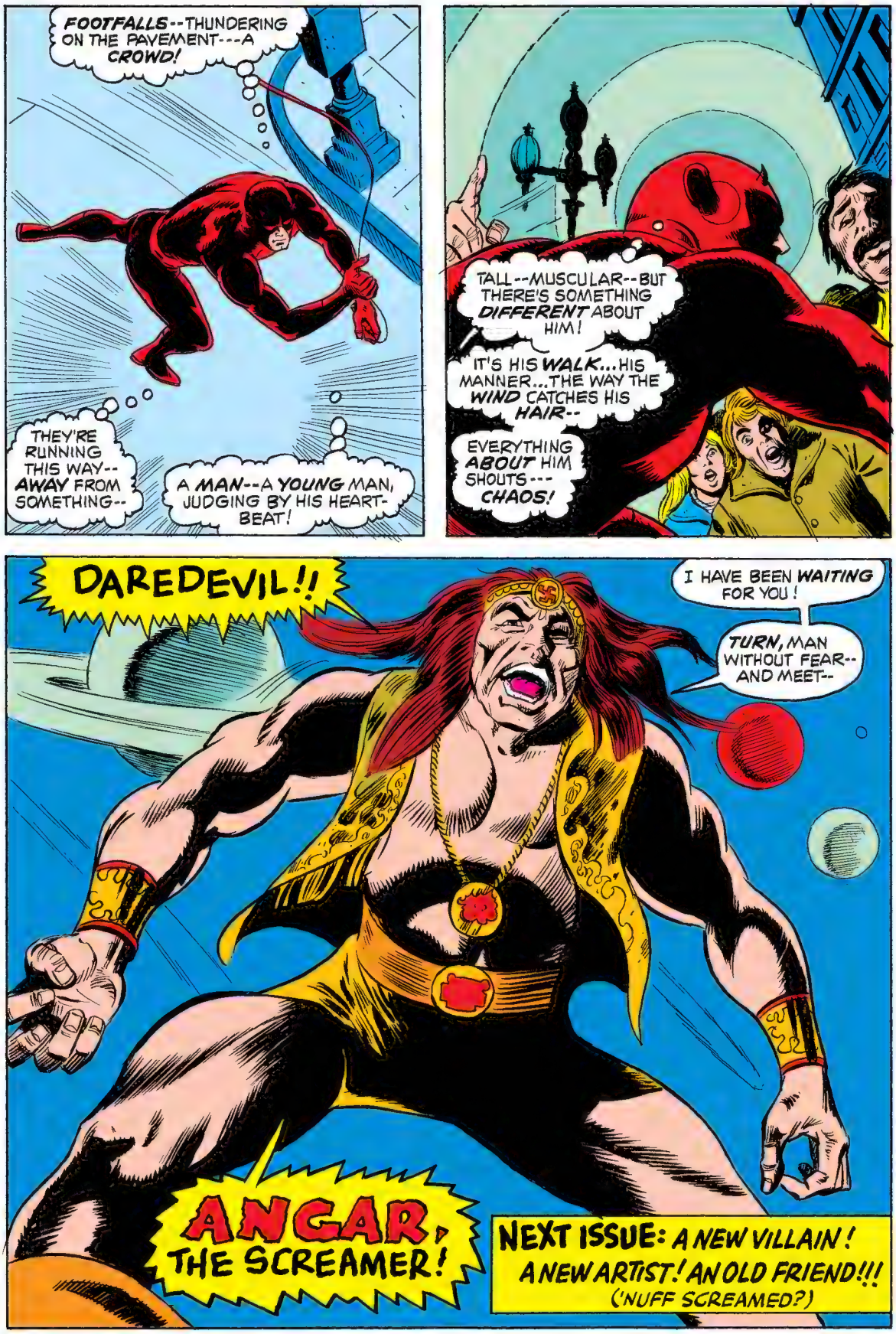
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, REALITY COMES RUSHING BACK--!
TELL ME YOU SAW IT, TOO, MASKED MAN---TELL ME I'M NOT LOSING MY MIND!
I..."SAW" IT ALL RIGHT. BUT WHAT WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW--
BUT IT'S HAPPENED A FEW TIMES THE PAST DAY OR SO--
WHILE YOU WERE BACK EAST WITH THE AVENGERS.
WHOLE SECTIONS OF THE CITY FREAK OUT.. AND NOBODY REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED!
THEY HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THIS ONE. LOOK OUT THERE....
TRAFFIC STALLED-- --PEOPLE HYSTERICAL--
I GUESS YOU'LL WANT TO CUT THIS INTERVIEW SHORT, NOW...
NO, NOT YET. YOU SEE, THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, EH, ILLUSION THAT MAKES SENSE.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS-- ARE YOU?
WHAT YOU SAW.... WAS THE LIFE OF A SUPER HERO, COMPRESSED INTO A FEW TERRIFYING SECONDS.
THAT'S WHAT I LIVE WITH, DAY-TO-DAY.
AND NOT JUST ME--
IT'S THE SAME FOR SPIDER-MAN OR THE FF--
--OR ANY OF US!
SURE, THERE'S GLAMOR-- SURE, THERE'S EXCITEMENT...
BUT THERE'S ALSO DANGER-- LURKING BEHIND EVERY BUSH--- UNDER EVERY BED, INSIDE EVERY CLOSET!


LIKE HAVING YOUR OWN PRIVATE H-BOMB--HANGING OVER YOU NIGHT AND DAY?
YOU'RE CLOSE. THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE--
--BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
IF IT WERE--
--ANY OF US COULD JUST THROW AWAY HIS LONGJOHNS AND WALK AWAY FROM IT WHENEVER HE WANTED.
PRIVATE
COME WITH ME--
DD--HAVE YOU BEEN THRU IT, TOO---?
YES--WENNER AND I BOTH HAVE. EVERYONE OKAY HERE?
I--THINK SO....
SOON, SEVERAL STORIES BELOW--
LOOK OUT THERE, JANN. WHAT DO YOU SEE?
THE AFTERMATH OF A--WHAT?--DISASTER, I GUESS.
LOOK AGAIN, MAN. IT'S PEOPLE.
"PEOPLE MAKE HEROES, JANN--WE'RE BORN FROM A GUT-LEVEL NEED TO HELP--AND A NEED FOR HELP--
"--AGAINST THE EVIL THAT SPRINGS FROM THE MINDS OF MEN TO THREATEN THE GOOD."

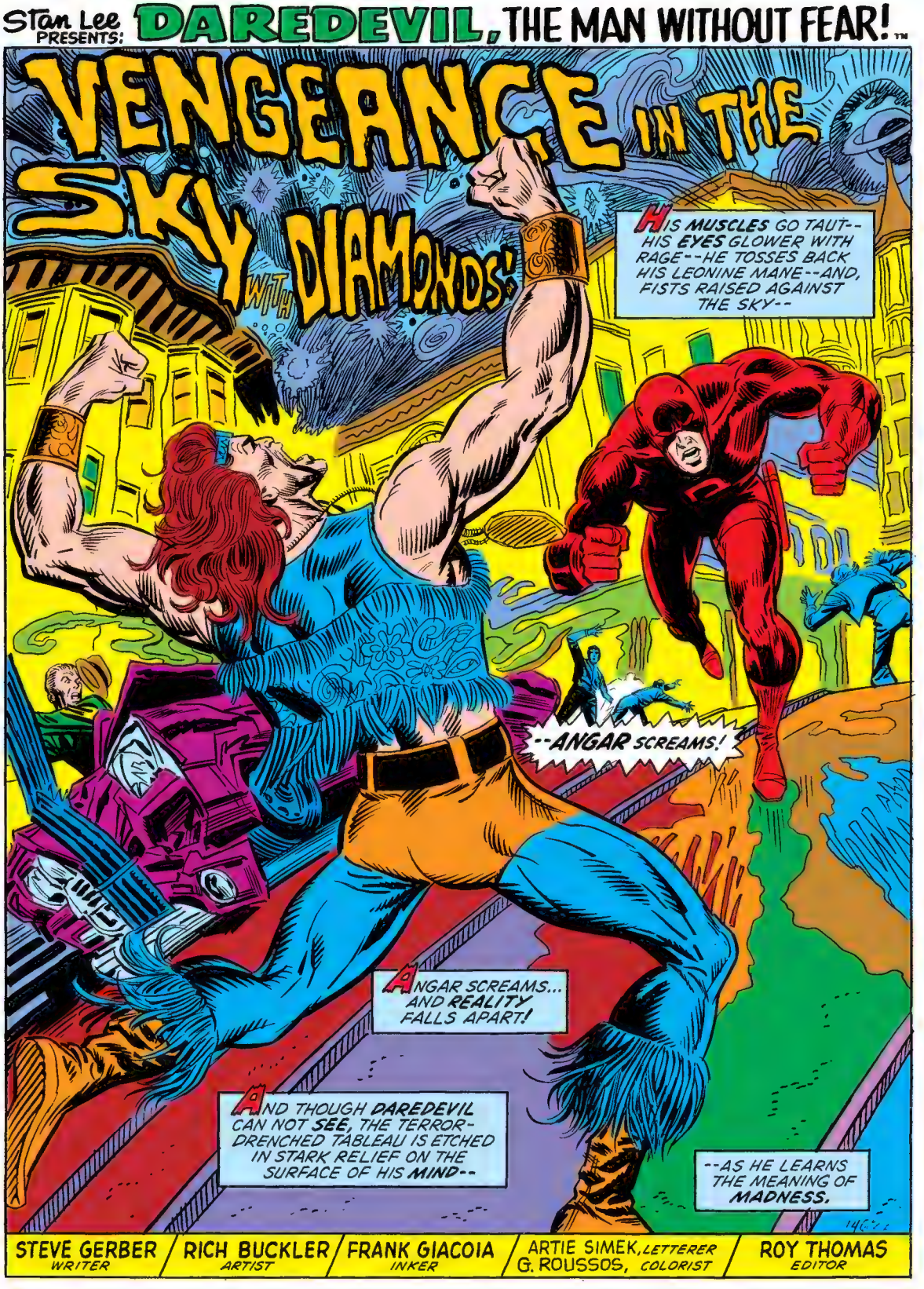

YOU GET A STRANGE PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE IN THIS BUSINESS, TOO...
AND SOME OF THE BEST MEN HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE THE WORST.
..YOU LEARN THAT THE MOST EVIL VILLAIN HAS SOME GOOD IN HIM.
YIN AND YANG. A REAL LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP.
EVERYTHING IS EVERYTHING, HUH?
IT'S FUNNY... MOST PEOPLE THINK YOU GUYS ARE ON ONE BIG EGO-TRIP.
THEY DON'T THINK ANY DEEPER THAN THAT.
THEY'VE GOT US CONFUSED WITH POLITICIANS.
YOUR PEOPLE CERTAINLY ARE RESILIENT, AREN'T THEY?
BOUNCED RIGHT BACK FROM THAT EXPERIENCE.
WHAT? WHAT EXPERIENCE?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER LEAVING MY OFFICE!
I JUST FEEL WEIRD-- LIKE I'VE HAD A BAD DREAM.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO--?
YOU! YOU WERE HERE! SURELY YOU--
--AND YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, TOO, I SUPPOSE!
I'M... SORRY...
TAKE IT EASY, DD.
LET'S JUST FINISH THE INTERVIEW.
THIS IS INCREDIBLE.

YOU THINK I'VE GONE CRAZY, DON'T YOU!
YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT BEAUTIFUL LITTLE SPEECH I GAVE YOU DOWN ON THE STREET.
WERE WE OUT ON THE STREET?
JANN, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULDA SAID THAT!
LOOK OUT--ALL OF YOU!
JANN, MAY I USE THE PHONE?
LIKE, I COULD STOP YOU?
SEVEN DIGITS LATER, LT. PAUL CARSON--
SURE, HORN-HEAD --WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
OH-- THAT!
YEAH, WE'VE HAD REPORTS OF SECTIONS OF THE CITY JUST GOING, EH, GA-GA---
BUT NOBODY REMEMBERS PARTICULARS-- ONLY THAT THEY WERE SCARED SILLY--
-- AND THAT THEY HEARD A BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU AND TASHA SPLITTING UP?
I'D RATHER NOT DISCUSS IT, PAUL.
THANKS FOR THE HELP, THOUGH.


THEN, AS IF ON CUE--
EEEEYAAAA
THE SCREAM!
IT'S STARTING AGAIN!
OH, LORD! THE ROOM'S COMING APART! IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE! OR--- NO!
THE WINDOW! LOOK OUT THE WINDOW!!
THE SKY HAS DISAPPEARED!!
NOBODY LEAVES THIS OFFICE! THAT'S AN ORDER!
YOU--YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE?
DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO--OR WHAT--IS DOING THIS--
--BEFORE WE ALL GO MAD!


FOOTFALLS--THUNDERING ON THE PAVEMENT---A CROWD!
THEY'RE RUNNING THIS WAY--AWAY FROM SOMETHING--
A MAN--A YOUNG MAN, JUDGING BY HIS HEART-BEAT!
TALL--MUSCULAR--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM!
IT'S HIS WALK...HIS MANNER...THE WAY THE WIND CATCHES HIS HAIR--
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM SHOUTS---CHAOS!
DAREDEVIL!!
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
TURN, MAN WITHOUT FEAR--AND MEET--
ANGAR, THE SCREAMER!
NEXT ISSUE: A NEW VILLAIN! A NEW ARTIST! AN OLD FRIEND!!! ('NUFF SCREAMED?)

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
20¢ CC 101 JULY 02459
DAREDEVIL AND THE BLACK WIDOW
LET THE LADY GO, MADMAN-- AND I MEAN NOW!
WHY WORRY ABOUT HER, MASKED MAN--
--WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO DIE--ABOUT TEN SECONDS AFTER SHE DOES!!
THE SENSES-SHATTERING SOUNDS OF... THE SCREAMER!


Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™
VENGEANCE IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS!
HIS MUSCLES GO TAUT--HIS EYES GLOWER WITH RAGE--HE TOSSES BACK HIS LEONINE MANE--AND, FISTS RAISED AGAINST THE SKY--
--ANGAR SCREAMS!
ANGAR SCREAMS... AND REALITY FALLS APART!
AND THOUGH DAREDEVIL CAN NOT SEE, THE TERROR-DRENCHED TABLEAU IS ETCHED IN STARK RELIEF ON THE SURFACE OF HIS MIND--
--AS HE LEARNS THE MEANING OF MADNESS.
STEVE GERBER WRITER
RICH BUCKLER ARTIST
FRANK GIACOIA INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
G. ROUSSOS, COLORIST
ROY THOMAS EDITOR

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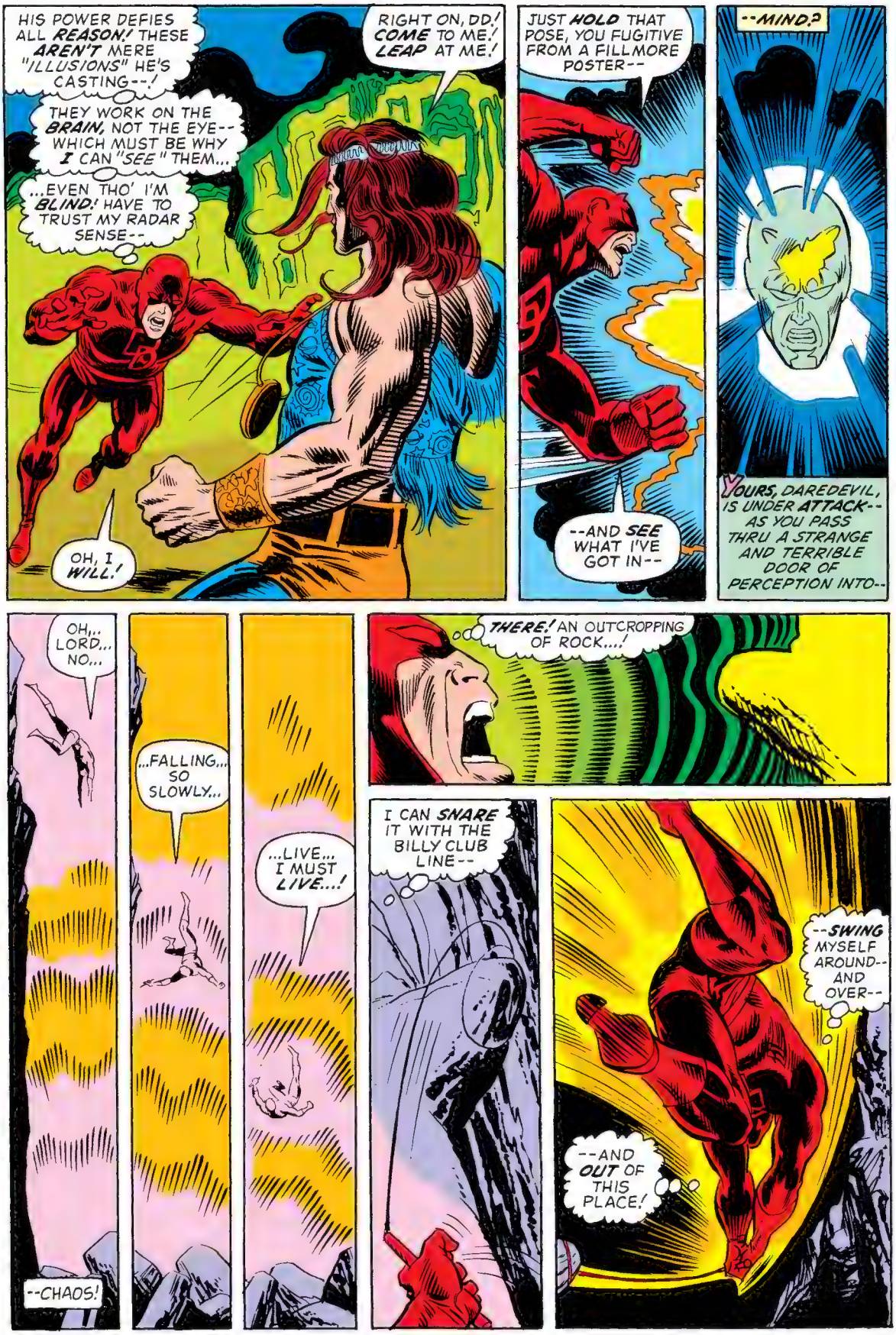
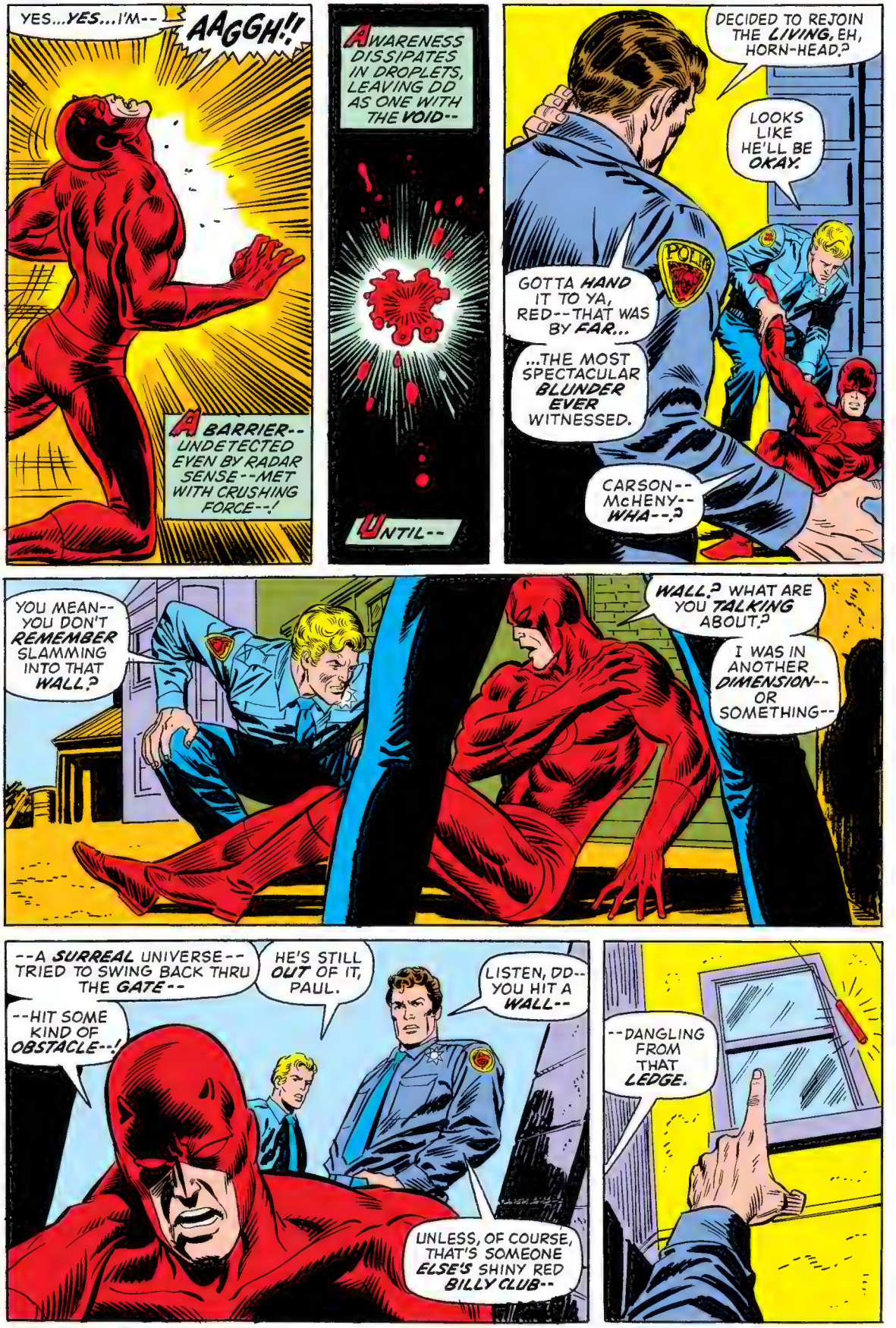
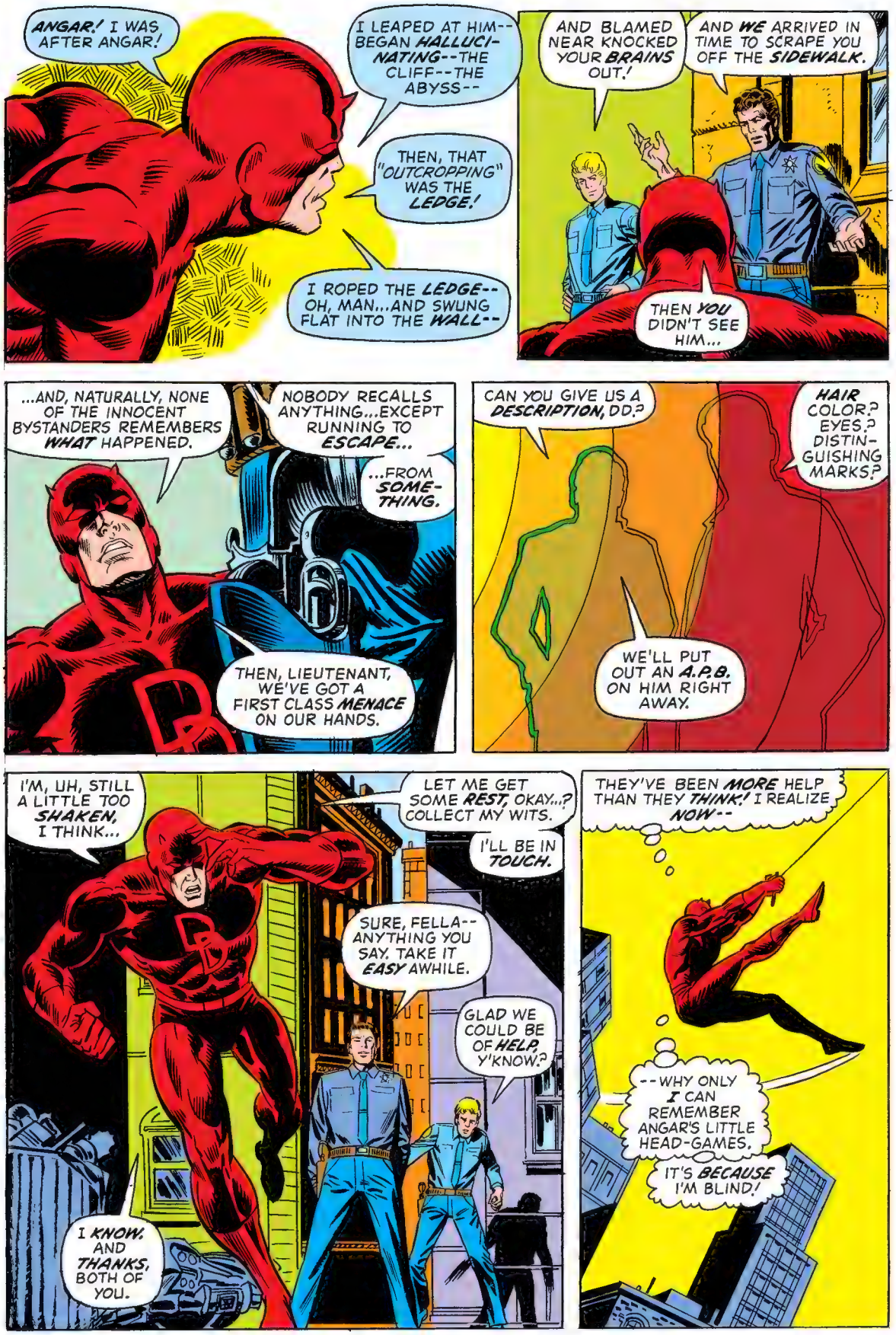
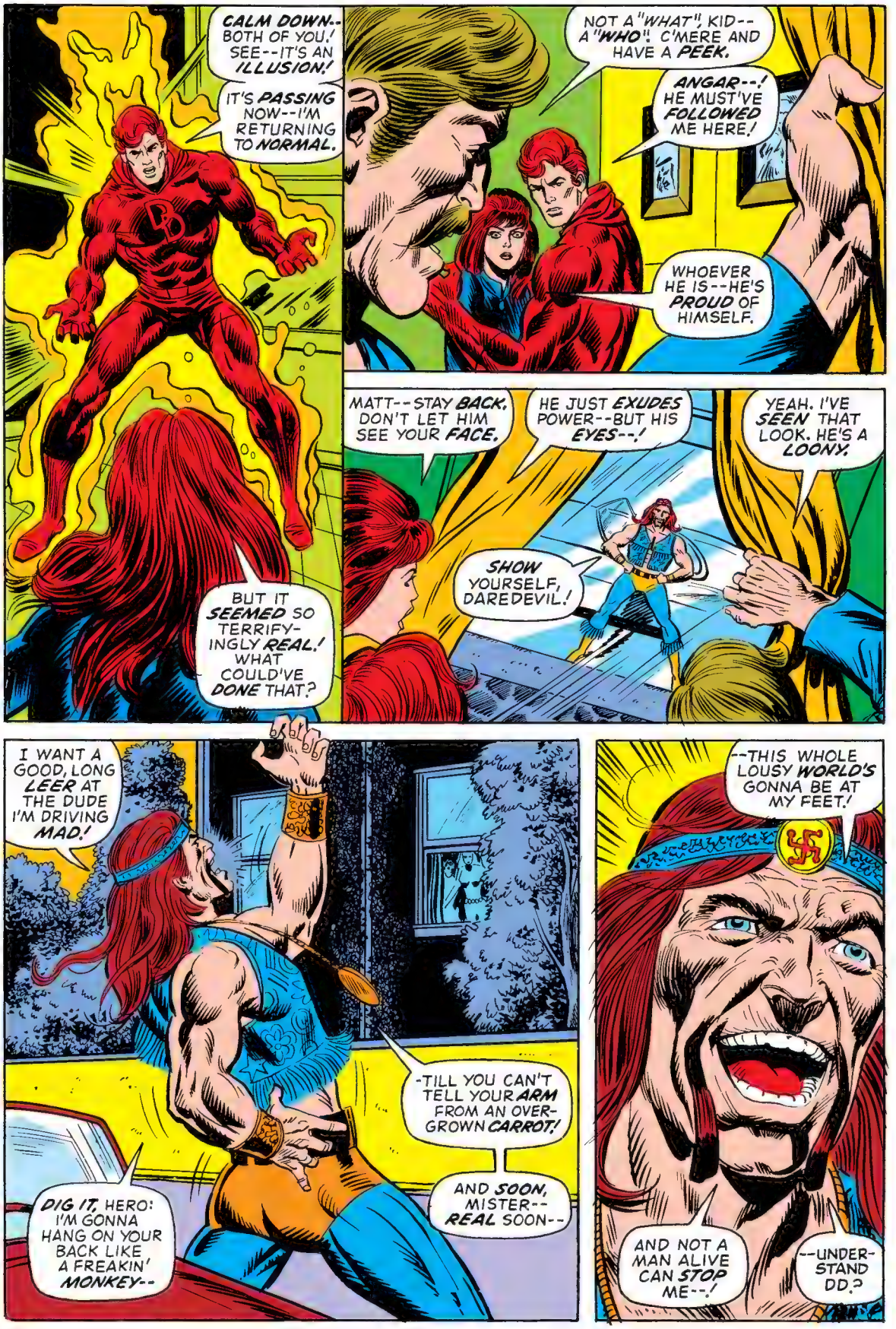

HIS POWER DEFIES ALL REASON! THESE AREN'T MERE "ILLUSIONS" HE'S CASTING--!
THEY WORK ON THE BRAIN, NOT THE EYE-- WHICH MUST BE WHY I CAN "SEE" THEM...
...EVEN THO' I'M BLIND! HAVE TO TRUST MY RADAR SENSE--
OH, I WILL!
RIGHT ON, DD! COME TO ME! LEAP AT ME!
JUST HOLD THAT POSE, YOU FUGITIVE FROM A FILLMORE POSTER--
--AND SEE WHAT I'VE GOT IN--
--MIND?
YOURS, DAREDEVIL, IS UNDER ATTACK-- AS YOU PASS THRU A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE DOOR OF PERCEPTION INTO--
OH,.. LORD... NO...
--CHAOS!
...FALLING... SO SLOWLY...
...LIVE... I MUST LIVE...!
THERE! AN OUTCROPPING OF ROCK...!
I CAN SNARE IT WITH THE BILLY CLUB LINE--
--SWING MYSELF AROUND-- AND OVER--
--AND OUT OF THIS PLACE!


YES...YES...I'M--
AAGGH!!
A BARRIER--UNDETECTED EVEN BY RADAR SENSE--MET WITH CRUSHING FORCE--!
AWARENESS DISSIPATES IN DROPLETS, LEAVING DD AS ONE WITH THE VOID--
UNTIL--
DECIDED TO REJOIN THE LIVING, EH, HORN-HEAD?
LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE OKAY.
GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, RED--THAT WAS BY FAR...
...THE MOST SPECTACULAR BLUNDER EVER WITNESSED.
CARSON--McHENY--WHA--?
YOU MEAN--YOU DON'T REMEMBER SLAMMING INTO THAT WALL?
WALL? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WAS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION--OR SOMETHING--
--A SURREAL UNIVERSE--TRIED TO SWING BACK THRU THE GATE--
--HIT SOME KIND OF OBSTACLE--!
HE'S STILL OUT OF IT, PAUL.
LISTEN, DD--YOU HIT A WALL--
UNLESS, OF COURSE, THAT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S SHINY RED BILLY CLUB--
--DANGLING FROM THAT LEDGE.

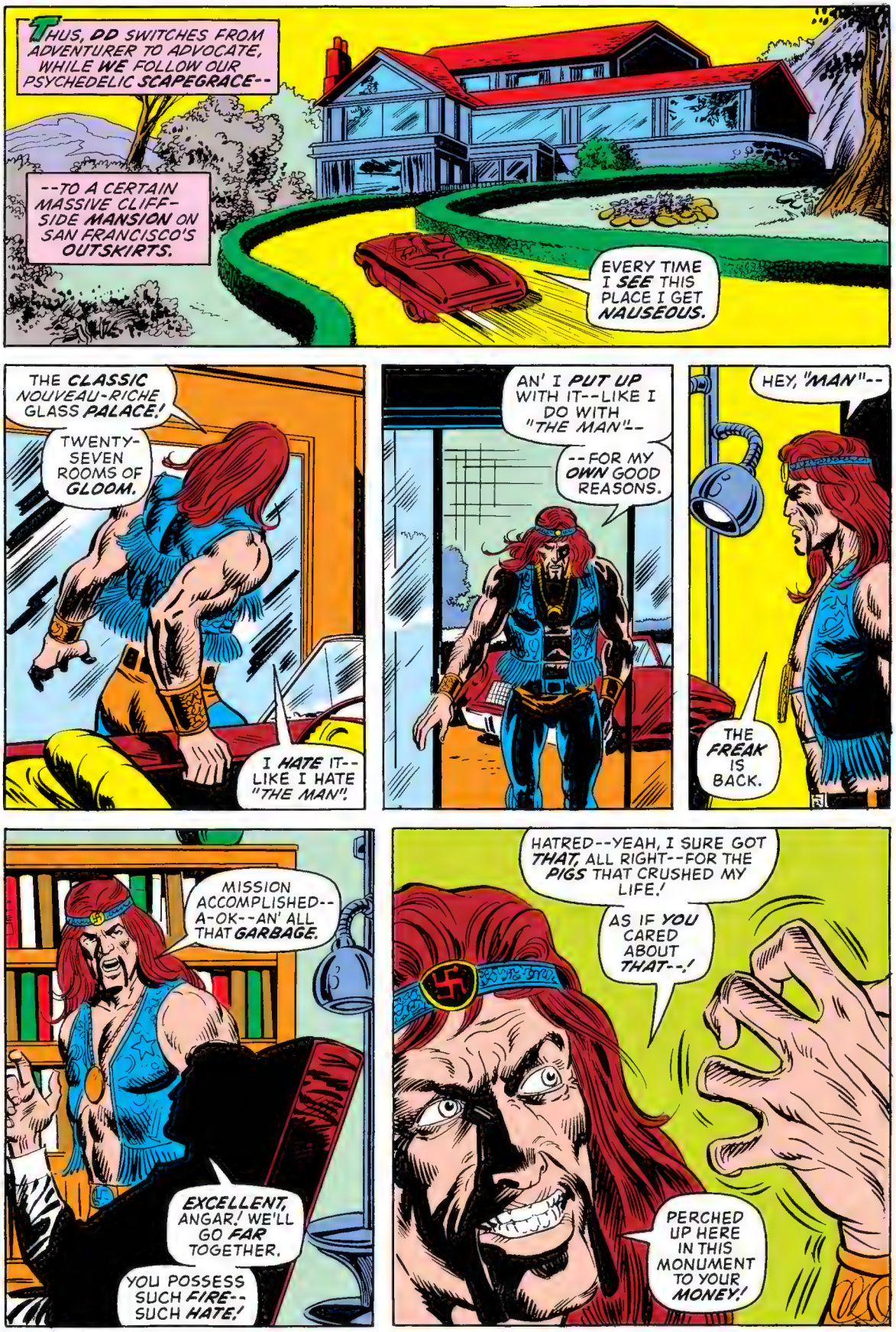

ANGAR! I WAS AFTER ANGAR!
I LEAPED AT HIM--BEGAN HALLUCINATING--THE CLIFF--THE ABYSS--
THEN, THAT "OUTCROPPING" WAS THE LEDGE!
I ROPED THE LEDGE--OH, MAN...AND SWUNG FLAT INTO THE WALL--
AND BLAMED NEAR KNOCKED YOUR BRAINS OUT.!
AND WE ARRIVED IN TIME TO SCRAPE YOU OFF THE SIDEWALK.
THEN YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM...
...AND, NATURALLY, NONE OF THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED.
NOBODY RECALLS ANYTHING...EXCEPT RUNNING TO ESCAPE...
...FROM SOMETHING.
THEN, LIEUTENANT, WE'VE GOT A FIRST CLASS MENACE ON OUR HANDS.
CAN YOU GIVE US A DESCRIPTION, DD?
HAIR COLOR? EYES? DISTINGUISHING MARKS?
WE'LL PUT OUT AN A.P.B. ON HIM RIGHT AWAY.
I'M, UH, STILL A LITTLE TOO SHAKEN, I THINK...
LET ME GET SOME REST, OKAY...? COLLECT MY WITS.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
SURE, FELLA--ANYTHING YOU SAY. TAKE IT EASY AWHILE.
GLAD WE COULD BE OF HELP, Y'KNOW?
I KNOW. AND THANKS, BOTH OF YOU.
THEY'VE BEEN MORE HELP THAN THEY THINK! I REALIZE NOW--
--WHY ONLY I CAN REMEMBER ANGAR'S LITTLE HEAD-GAMES.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M BLIND!

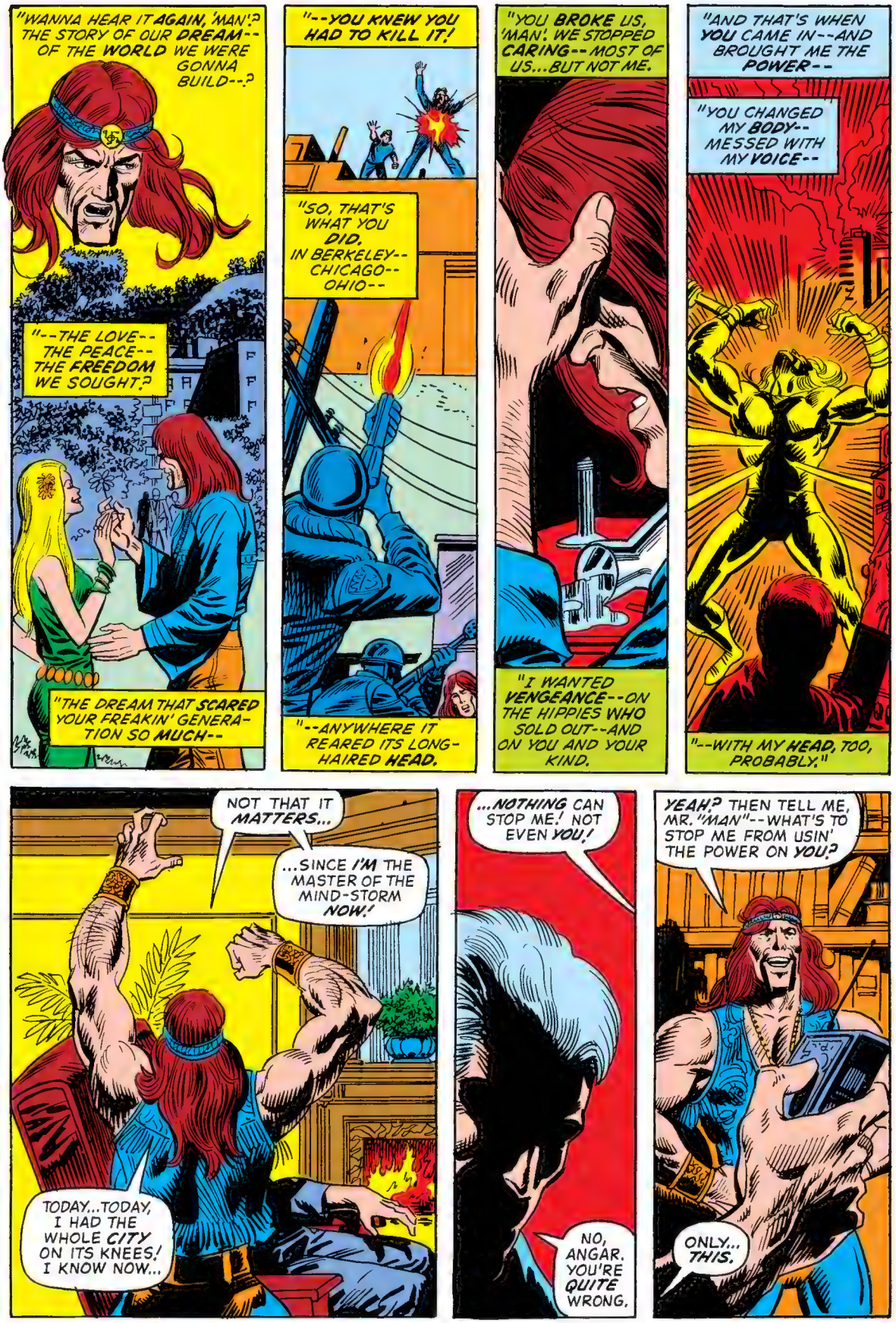
HIS "ERASING" POWER MUST DEPEND SOMEHOW ON AN OPTICAL PRINCIPLE--WHILE THE ACTUAL HALLUCINATIONS--
--ARE OBVIOUSLY TIED UP WITH THE CHEMISTRY OF THE BRAIN.
I'LL FILE THAT TIDBIT FOR FUTURE USE.
BUT, RIGHT NOW...
...I'VE GOT OTHER PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH. SUCH AS--
--WHY'D I COME "HOME" TO THE WIDOW'S MANSION--
--WHEN TASHA DOESN'T EVEN LIVE HERE ANYMORE--
--AND MATT MURDOCK HAS NEVER PAID HER A PENNY'S RENT?
IT'S NO GOOD. I'LL HAVE TO MOVE OUT, AND--
WAIT--FOOTSTEPS--A KNOCK AT THE DOOR--NATASHA--?
NO. SHE NEVER BOTHERED TO KNOCK.
RAP
MATT? IT'S IVAN. CAN I COME IN?
SURE. THE DOOR'S NOT LOCKED--
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE HEARD ANYTHING FROM--
TASHA? NOT A WORD.
GUESS SHE'S FORGOTTEN US BOTH.
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S LIBERATION FOR YOU. MAKE A WOMAN AN AVENGER--
--GIVE HER FREE ROOM AND BOARD AT TONY STARK'S MANSION...
...AND SHE'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE.
ALMOST.
WHA--?!

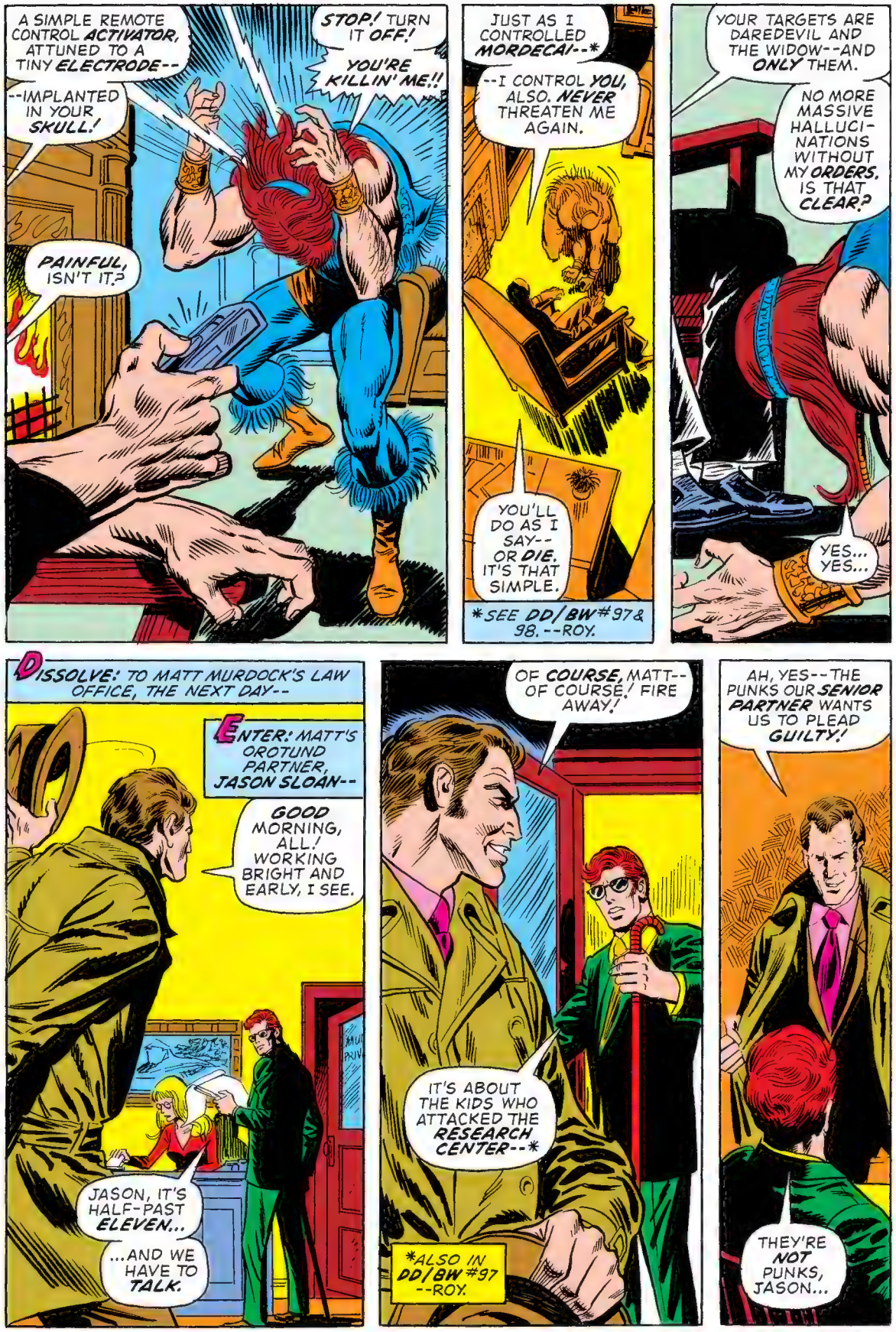
YOU!
YOU'RE... YOU!
HAVE I EVER BEEN ANYONE ELSE?
B-BUT-- NEW YORK-- THE AVEN--
WILL YOU STOP GIBBERING, YOU BIG RED DOPE...
...AND JUST HOLD ME-- VERY CLOSE--
TASHA--IT'S SO GOOD TO--HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
YOUR... FACE...
OH!! IT'S HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!
DD TRIES TO SPEAK--BUT NO WORDS COME. AND EVEN IF THEY DID--
--COULD SHE LISTEN-- OR BELIEVE--WHILE CONFRONTED BY THIS?
ARE YOU TWO ARGUING ALREADY? WHAT'S ALL THE NOI--?
GOOD LORD! HE'S BECOME A--A MONSTER!


CALM DOWN--BOTH OF YOU! SEE--IT'S AN ILLUSION!
IT'S PASSING NOW--I'M RETURNING TO NORMAL.
BUT IT SEEMED SO TERRIFYINGLY REAL! WHAT COULD'VE DONE THAT?
NOT A "WHAT", KID--A "WHO"! C'MERE AND HAVE A PEEK.
ANGAR--! HE MUST'VE FOLLOWED ME HERE!
WHOEVER HE IS--HE'S PROUD OF HIMSELF.
MATT--STAY BACK. DON'T LET HIM SEE YOUR FACE.
HE JUST EXUDES POWER--BUT HIS EYES--!
YEAH. I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK. HE'S A LOONY.
SHOW YOURSELF, DAREDEVIL!
I WANT A GOOD, LONG LEER AT THE DUDE I'M DRIVING MAD!
-TILL YOU CAN'T TELL YOUR ARM FROM AN OVERGROWN CARROT!
AND SOON, MISTER--REAL SOON--
DIG IT, HERO: I'M GONNA HANG ON YOUR BACK LIKE A FREAKIN' MONKEY--
--THIS WHOLE LOUSY WORLD'S GONNA BE AT MY FEET!
AND NOT A MAN ALIVE CAN STOP ME--!
--UNDERSTAND DD.?

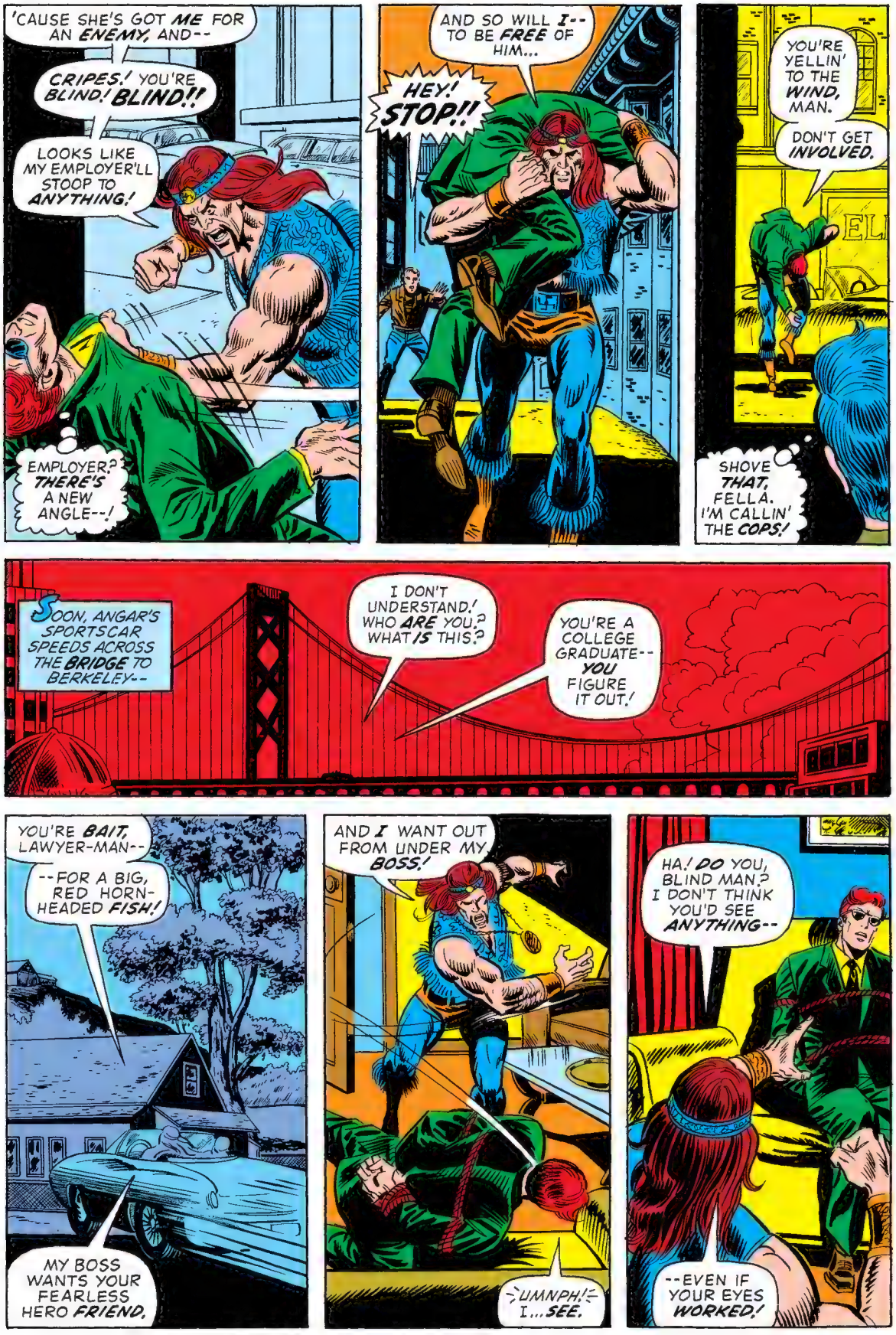
I'M LEAVIN' NOW, HORN-HEAD. DON'T WANNA GET BUSTED FOR TRESPASSIN'!
BUT I'LL BE BACK-- YOU CAN BET ON IT!
CHOW!
AS ANGAR'S SPORTS CAR PULLS AWAY, THE WIDOW WONDERS ALOUD--
IS IT TRUE-- THAT WE CAN'T DEFEAT HIM?
IT'S... POSSIBLE, YES.
HIS POWER GOES BEYOND HYPNOSIS. HE'S LIKE A LIVING LSD FACTORY.
IF HE CAN SUSTAIN THE EFFECT--WELL, WHO KNOWS? HE COULD "FREAK OUT" THE WORLD!
AAH! MORE BAD NEWS. I'M SHUTTIN' THIS THING OFF--
NO-- WAIT! LISTEN!
--AND POLICE ARE MAKING A THOROUGH CHECK OF THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM.
THOSE, THEN, ARE THE FACTS. OUR CITY IS IN THE GRIP OF AN EPIDEMIC OF INSANITY.
POLICE ADVISE YOU TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOMES AND STAY SEATED AT ALL TIMES, IF POSSIBLE...
YEAH, THAT'S THE ANSWER. WE BECOME VEGETABLES AND JUST LET ANGAR HAVE THE WORLD!
CLICK!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO PEOPLE?
WELL, THE REST OF THE CITY CAN REMAIN SEATED--
--BUT MATT MURDOCK'S GOT A LAW PRACTICE TO RUN.


THUS, DD SWITCHES FROM ADVENTURER TO ADVOCATE, WHILE WE FOLLOW OUR PSYCHEDELIC SCAPEGRACE--
--TO A CERTAIN MASSIVE CLIFF-SIDE MANSION ON SAN FRANCISCO'S OUTSKIRTS.
EVERY TIME I SEE THIS PLACE I GET NAUSEOUS.
THE CLASSIC NOUVEAU-RICHE GLASS PALACE!
TWENTY-SEVEN ROOMS OF GLOOM.
I HATE IT--LIKE I HATE "THE MAN".
AN' I PUT UP WITH IT--LIKE I DO WITH "THE MAN"--
--FOR MY OWN GOOD REASONS.
HEY, "MAN"--
THE FREAK IS BACK.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED--A-OK--AN' ALL THAT GARBAGE.
EXCELLENT, ANGAR! WE'LL GO FAR TOGETHER.
YOU POSSESS SUCH FIRE--SUCH HATE!
HATRED--YEAH, I SURE GOT THAT, ALL RIGHT--FOR THE PIGS THAT CRUSHED MY LIFE!
AS IF YOU CARED ABOUT THAT--!
PERCHED UP HERE IN THIS MONUMENT TO YOUR MONEY!

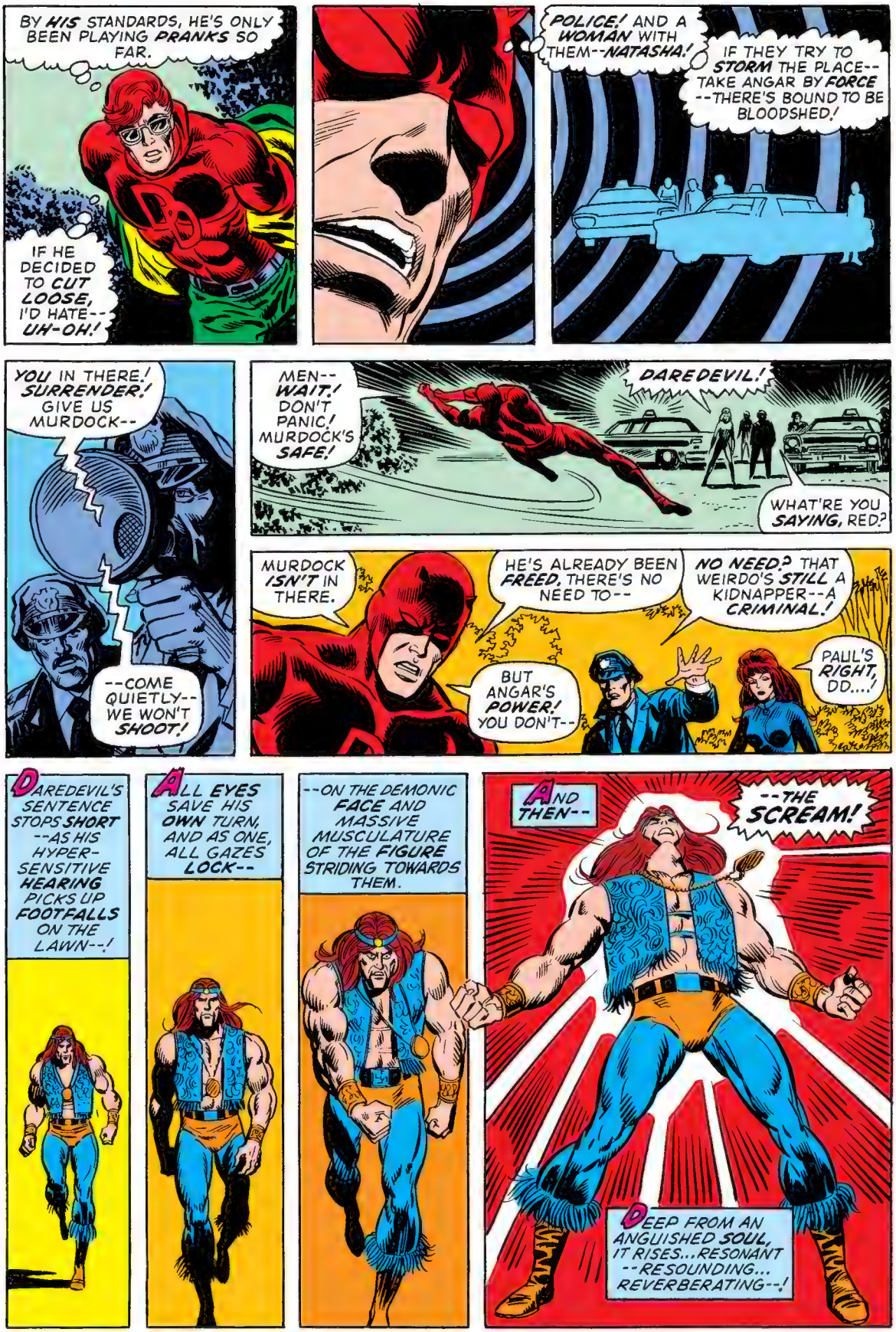

"WANNA HEAR IT AGAIN, 'MAN'? THE STORY OF OUR DREAM--OF THE WORLD WE WERE GONNA BUILD--?
"--THE LOVE--THE PEACE--THE FREEDOM WE SOUGHT.?
"THE DREAM THAT SCARED YOUR FREAKIN' GENERATION SO MUCH--
"--YOU KNEW YOU HAD TO KILL IT!
"SO, THAT'S WHAT YOU DID. IN BERKELEY--CHICAGO--OHIO--
"--ANYWHERE IT REARED ITS LONG-HAIRED HEAD.
"YOU BROKE US, 'MAN! WE STOPPED CARING--MOST OF US...BUT NOT ME.
"I WANTED VENGEANCE--ON THE HIPPIES WHO SOLD OUT--AND ON YOU AND YOUR KIND.
"AND THAT'S WHEN YOU CAME IN--AND BROUGHT ME THE POWER--
"YOU CHANGED MY BODY--MESSED WITH MY VOICE--
"--WITH MY HEAD, TOO, PROBABLY."
NOT THAT IT MATTERS...
...SINCE I'M THE MASTER OF THE MIND-STORM NOW!
TODAY...TODAY, I HAD THE WHOLE CITY ON ITS KNEES! I KNOW NOW...
...NOTHING CAN STOP ME! NOT EVEN YOU!
NO, ANGAR. YOU'RE QUITE WRONG.
YEAH? THEN TELL ME, MR. "MAN"--WHAT'S TO STOP ME FROM USIN' THE POWER ON YOU?
ONLY... THIS.

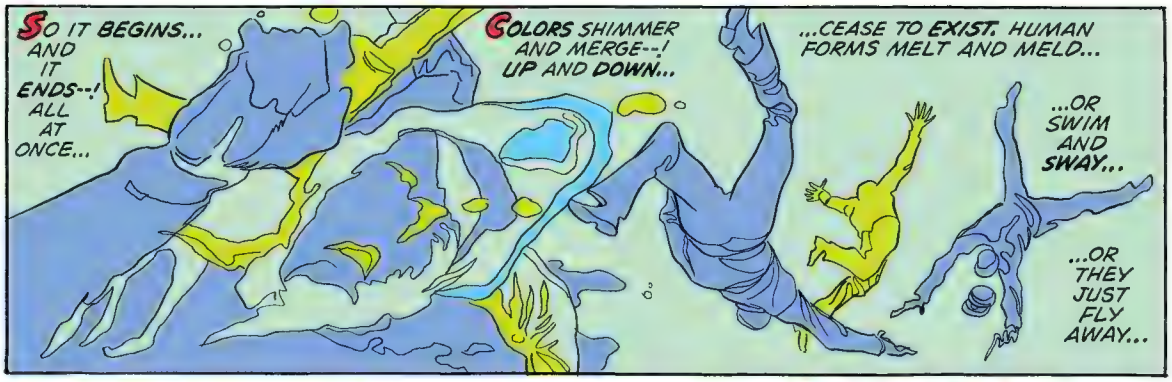

A SIMPLE REMOTE CONTROL ACTIVATOR, ATTUNED TO A TINY ELECTRODE--
--IMPLANTED IN YOUR SKULL!
PAINFUL, ISN'T IT?
STOP! TURN IT OFF!
YOU'RE KILLIN' ME!!
JUST AS I CONTROLLED MORDECAI--*
--I CONTROL YOU, ALSO. NEVER THREATEN ME AGAIN.
YOU'LL DO AS I SAY-- OR DIE. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
*SEE DD/BW #97 & 98. --ROY.
YOUR TARGETS ARE DAREDEVIL AND THE WIDOW--AND ONLY THEM.
NO MORE MASSIVE HALLUCINATIONS WITHOUT MY ORDERS, IS THAT CLEAR?
YES... YES...
DISSOLVE: TO MATT MURDOCK'S LAW OFFICE, THE NEXT DAY--
ENTER: MATT'S OROTUND PARTNER, JASON SLOAN--
GOOD MORNING, ALL! WORKING BRIGHT AND EARLY, I SEE.
JASON, IT'S HALF-PAST ELEVEN...
...AND WE HAVE TO TALK.
OF COURSE, MATT-- OF COURSE! FIRE AWAY!
IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS WHO ATTACKED THE RESEARCH CENTER--*
*ALSO IN DD/BW #97 --ROY.
AH, YES--THE PUNKS OUR SENIOR PARTNER WANTS US TO PLEAD GUILTY!
THEY'RE NOT PUNKS, JASON...

...AND, ACCORDING TO DAREDEVIL, WHO HELPED CAPTURE THEM--THEY'RE ALSO NOT GUILTY.
AND DESPITE THE PROTESTATIONS OF KERWIN J. BRODERICK--THAT'S HOW I INTEND TO PLEAD.
PRETTY STRONG WORDS, COUNSELOR.
STOP AND THINK, MATT. YOU'RE PART OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FIRM IN THE STATE--
--A FIRM BRODERICK BUILT. HIS IDEAS SEEM STRANGE, BUT THEY WORK OUT FOR THE BEST.
WHOSE BEST, JASON? OURS ...OR OUR CLIENTS'?
YOUR BEST, MATT--IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN A PARTNER IN THIS OFFICE.
I'M GOING TO IGNORE THAT, JASON--FOR NOW!
FUMING, MATT MAKES HIS WAY TO THE STREET--
BLAST! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! WHY--?
WHOA--! RADAR SENSE PICKING UP A THREAT FROM ABOVE!
IT'S ANGAR! BUT I CAN'T LET ON I'M AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE--!
--HAVE TO PLAY "BLIND" AND SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO...
SO YOU'RE THE WIDOW'S TENANT, HUH?
SHE'S A DANGEROUS LANDLADY THESE DAYS.

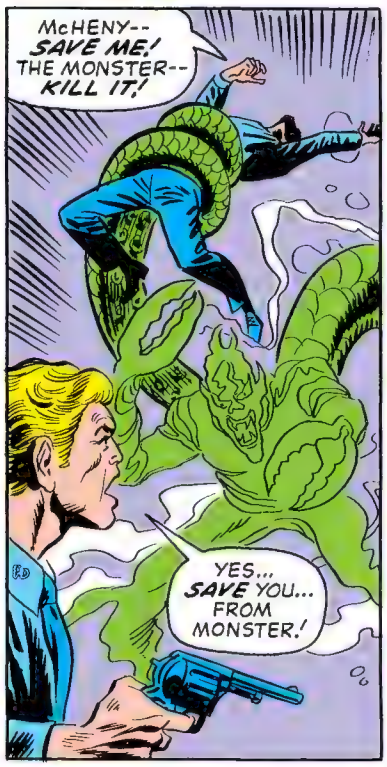

'CAUSE SHE'S GOT ME FOR AN ENEMY, AND--
CRIPES! YOU'RE BLIND! BLIND!!
LOOKS LIKE MY EMPLOYER'LL STOOP TO ANYTHING!
EMPLOYER? THERE'S A NEW ANGLE--!
AND SO WILL I-- TO BE FREE OF HIM...
HEY! STOP!!
YOU'RE YELLIN' TO THE WIND, MAN.
DON'T GET INVOLVED.
SHOVE THAT, FELLA. I'M CALLIN' THE COPS!
SOON, ANGAR'S SPORTSCAR SPEEDS ACROSS THE BRIDGE TO BERKELEY--
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS?
YOU'RE A COLLEGE GRADUATE-- YOU FIGURE IT OUT!
YOU'RE BAIT, LAWYER-MAN--
--FOR A BIG, RED HORN-HEADED FISH!
MY BOSS WANTS YOUR FEARLESS HERO FRIEND.
AND I WANT OUT FROM UNDER MY BOSS!
UMNPH!
I...SEE.
HA! DO YOU, BLIND MAN? I DON'T THINK YOU'D SEE ANYTHING--
--EVEN IF YOUR EYES WORKED!

AND, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, OTHER EYES SCAN A GRIM MESSAGE--
CRIME IN THIS CITY HAS HIT A NEW LOW: KIDNAPPING A BLIND MAN--!
HOPE THE WIDOW'S BACK FROM NEW YORK...!
HELLO...? TASHA? IT'S PAUL. LISTEN--
CARSON'S ON HIS WAY HERE--MATT'S BEEN ABDUCTED--
--APPARENTLY BY ANGAR! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THAT VILLAIN--!
VILLAIN??
DON'T CALL ME THAT! I WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD--
--FROM MEN LIKE MY NAMELESS BOSS!
BUT--YOU'RE BLOWING IT. DON'T YOU SEE?
SEE WHAT, MAN? TALK!
YOU'RE PLAYING ALL THE GAMES YOU HATE IN THEM.
LOOK AT YOU--YOU'RE ON A VIOLENCE TRIP--A POWER TRIP--THE WORKS!
WHAT COMES NEXT--? SEARCH-AND-DESTROY MISSIONS--
OKAY-- ENOUGH! YOU MADE YOUR POINT...
YOUR VISION'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
GET OUT OF HERE--SPLIT! BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND!
IF YOU KNEW ABOUT...THE PAIN...
IT'S CRAZY--WHEN YOU GET TO KNOW HIM, HE'S VERY LIKEABLE, ACTUALLY.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S ALSO THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.


BY HIS STANDARDS, HE'S ONLY BEEN PLAYING PRANKS SO FAR.
IF HE DECIDED TO CUT LOOSE, I'D HATE-- UH-OH!
POLICE! AND A WOMAN WITH THEM--NATASHA!
IF THEY TRY TO STORM THE PLACE-- TAKE ANGAR BY FORCE --THERE'S BOUND TO BE BLOODSHED!
YOU IN THERE! SURRENDER! GIVE US MURDOCK--
--COME QUIETLY-- WE WON'T SHOOT!
MEN-- WAIT! DON'T PANIC! MURDOCK'S SAFE!
DAREDEVIL!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, RED?
MURDOCK ISN'T IN THERE.
HE'S ALREADY BEEN FREED, THERE'S NO NEED TO--
NO NEED? THAT WEIRDO'S STILL A KIDNAPPER--A CRIMINAL!
BUT ANGAR'S POWER! YOU DON'T--
PAUL'S RIGHT, DD...!
DAREDEVIL'S SENTENCE STOPS SHORT --AS HIS HYPER-SENSITIVE HEARING PICKS UP FOOTFALLS ON THE LAWN--!
ALL EYES SAVE HIS OWN TURN, AND AS ONE, ALL GAZES LOCK--
--ON THE DEMONIC FACE AND MASSIVE MUSCULATURE OF THE FIGURE STRIDING TOWARDS THEM.
AND THEN--
--THE SCREAM!
DEEP FROM AN ANGUISHED SOUL, IT RISES...RESONANT --RESOUNDING... REVERBERATING--!

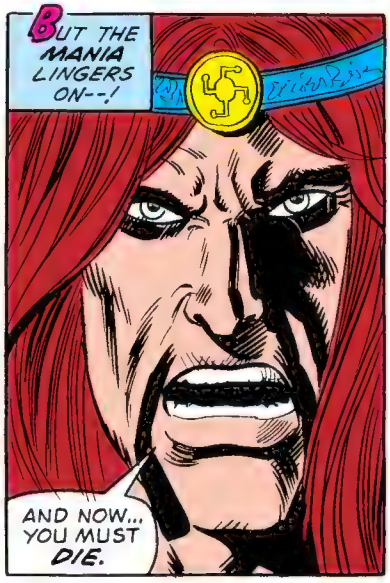

SO IT BEGINS... AND IT ENDS--! ALL AT ONCE...
COLORS SHIMMER AND MERGE--! UP AND DOWN...
...CEASE TO EXIST. HUMAN FORMS MELT AND MELD...
...OR SWIM AND SWAY...
...OR THEY JUST FLY AWAY...

MONSTERS!!
CREATURES SENT TO KILL US!

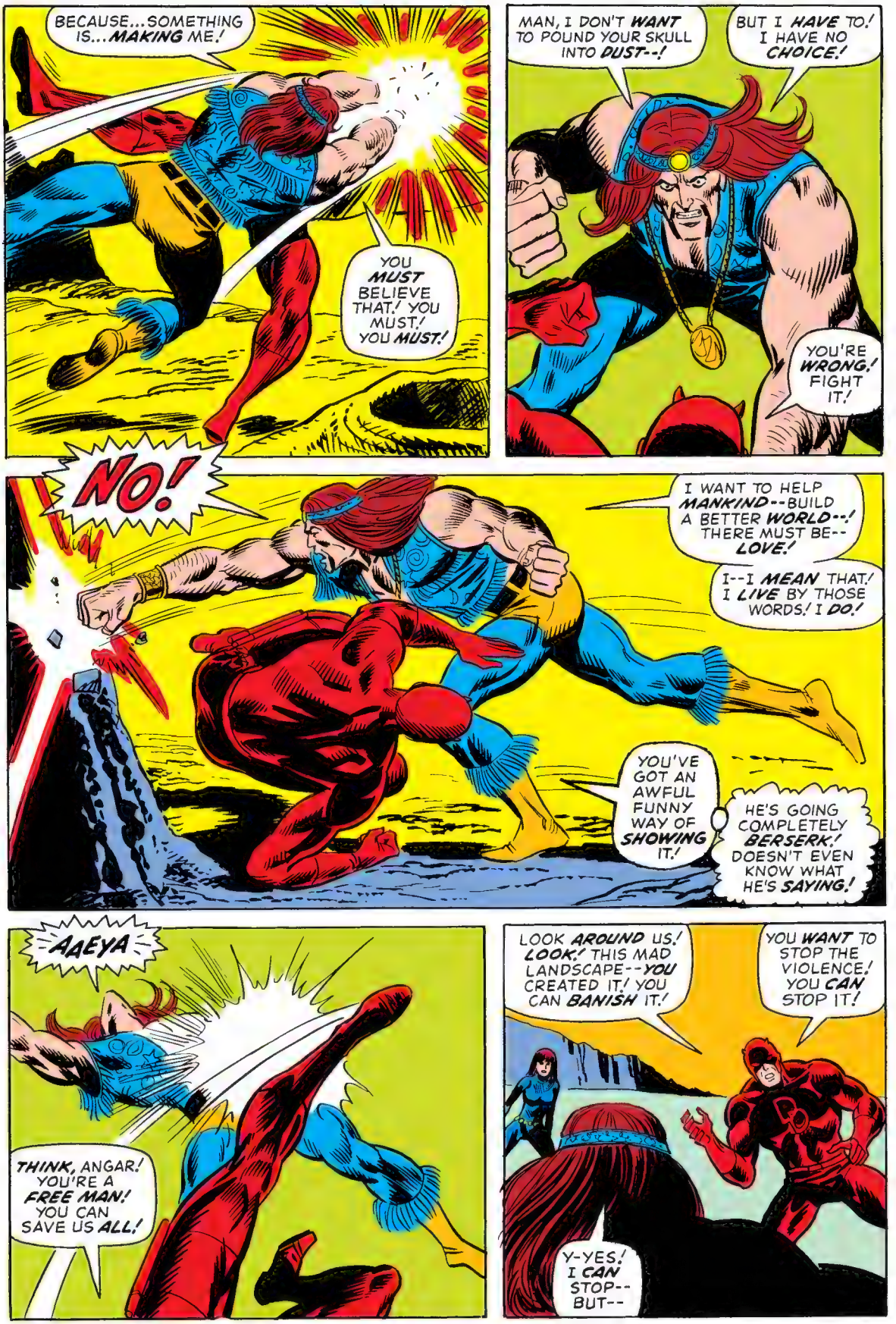

McHENY-- SAVE ME! THE MONSTER-- KILL IT!
YES... SAVE YOU... FROM MONSTER!

BUT...IS IT A MONSTER? REALLY--?
McHENY! DON'T! IT'S ME-- TRAVERS--
AARGH!
KILL MONSTER-- SAVE PAUL-- KILL!
THUS, BULLETS PLAY THE CRACKLING PERCUSSION PART--

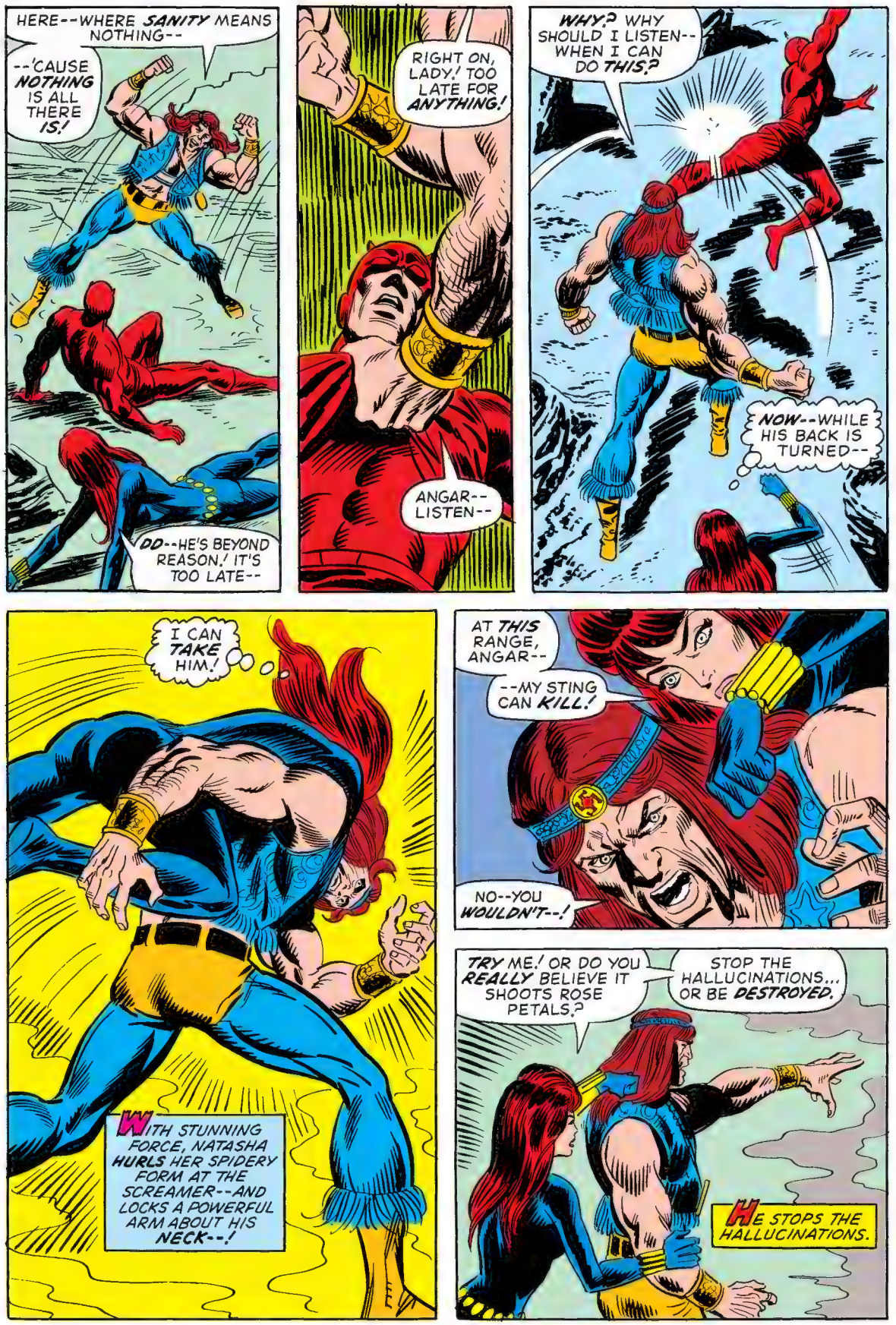
--IN THE TERROR-SONG OF ANGAR--
--A CACOPHONUS CANTICLE WHICH NOW REACHES A CRESCENDO AND...CEASES!

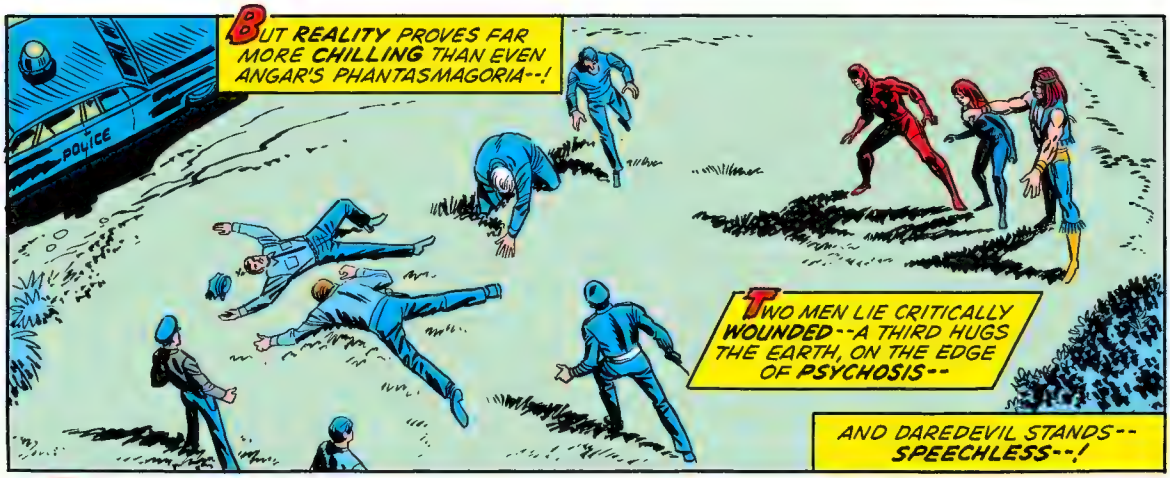

BUT THE MANIA LINGERS ON--!
AND NOW... YOU MUST DIE.

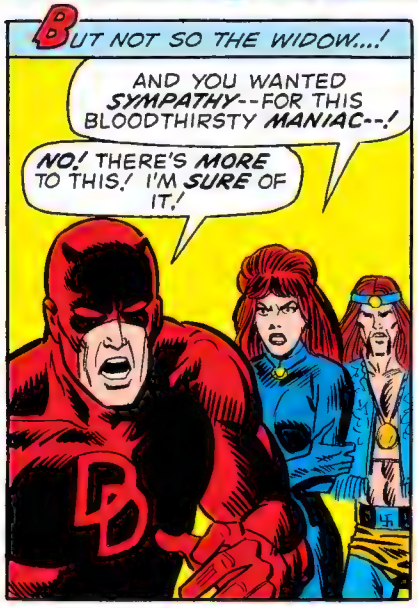
I DON'T WANT TO KILL... MURDOCK SHOWED ME THAT...
THEN WHY, ANGAR? WHY?


BECAUSE...SOMETHING IS...MAKING ME!
YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT! YOU MUST! YOU MUST!
MAN, I DON'T WANT TO POUND YOUR SKULL INTO DUST--!
BUT I HAVE TO! I HAVE NO CHOICE!
YOU'RE WRONG! FIGHT IT!
NO!
I WANT TO HELP MANKIND--BUILD A BETTER WORLD--! THERE MUST BE--LOVE!
I--I MEAN THAT! I LIVE BY THOSE WORDS! I DO!
YOU'VE GOT AN AWFUL FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT!
HE'S GOING COMPLETELY BERSERK! DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING!
AAEYA
THINK, ANGAR! YOU'RE A FREE MAN! YOU CAN SAVE US ALL!
LOOK AROUND US! LOOK! THIS MAD LANDSCAPE--YOU CREATED IT! YOU CAN BANISH IT!
YOU WANT TO STOP THE VIOLENCE! YOU CAN STOP IT!
Y-YES! I CAN STOP-- BUT--

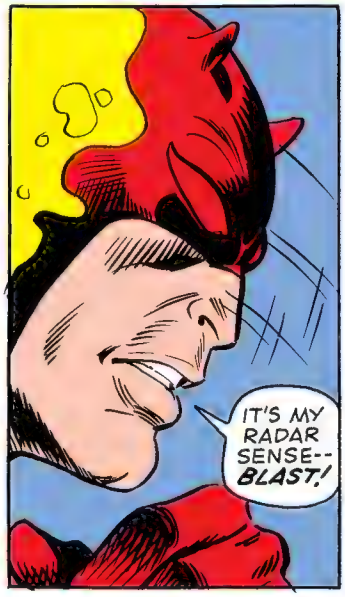
--BUT FIRST-- I GOTTA KILL YOU!
=UHHNH=
HE'S EVEN STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT!
AND HE MUST BE PROGRAMMED TO MURDER ME!
HERE COMES YOUR OLD LADY, DD! BUT SHE CAN'T HELP YOU NOW--!
NOTHING CAN!!
SO YOU SAY! BUT MY WIDOW'S STING--
WHAT?
--IT'S SHOOTING OUT-- FLOWERS!!
YOU WANT YOUR PARTNER, LADY? OKAY--CATCH!
OH, NO! HAVE I HURT HER?
NO! NOT ENOUGH! SHE AND HE BOTH--
--HAVE GOTTA SUFFER THE ULTIMATE HURT! DEATH!
THE GROUND! IT VANISHED-- WE'RE FALLING!
DEATH AT ANGAR'S HANDS--
--HERE AT THE CENTER OF THE MIND-STORM! IN A PSYCHIC WASTELAND!

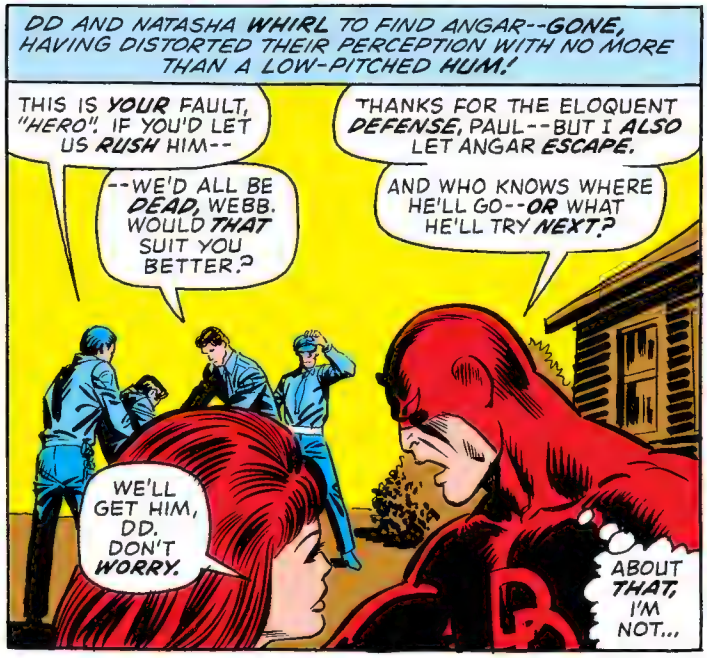

HERE--WHERE SANITY MEANS NOTHING--
--'CAUSE NOTHING IS ALL THERE IS!
DD--HE'S BEYOND REASON! IT'S TOO LATE--
RIGHT ON, LADY! TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING!
ANGAR--LISTEN--
WHY? WHY SHOULD I LISTEN--WHEN I CAN DO THIS?
NOW--WHILE HIS BACK IS TURNED--
I CAN TAKE HIM!
WITH STUNNING FORCE, NATASHA HURLS HER SPIDERY FORM AT THE SCREAMER--AND LOCKS A POWERFUL ARM ABOUT HIS NECK--!
AT THIS RANGE, ANGAR--
--MY STING CAN KILL!
NO--YOU WOULDN'T--!
TRY ME! OR DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE IT SHOOTS ROSE PETALS?
STOP THE HALLUCINATIONS... OR BE DESTROYED.
HE STOPS THE HALLUCINATIONS.

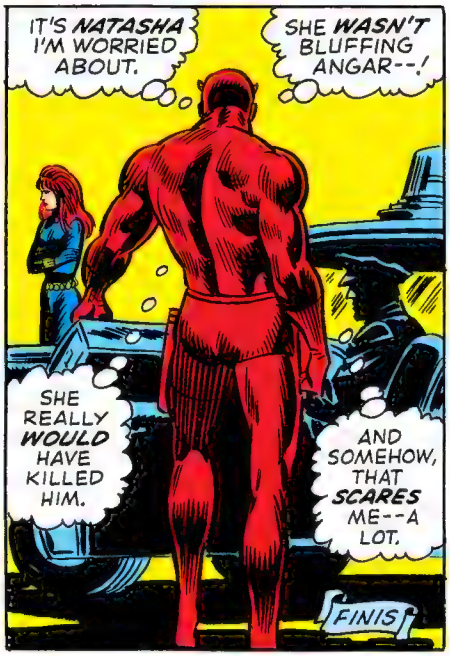

BUT REALITY PROVES FAR MORE CHILLING THAN EVEN ANGAR'S PHANTASMAGORIA--!
POLICE
TWO MEN LIE CRITICALLY WOUNDED--A THIRD HUGS THE EARTH, ON THE EDGE OF PSYCHOSIS--
AND DAREDEVIL STANDS--SPEECHLESS--!


BUT NOT SO THE WIDOW...!
AND YOU WANTED SYMPATHY--FOR THIS BLOODTHIRSTY MANIAC--!
NO! THERE'S MORE TO THIS! I'M SURE OF IT!

ANGAR--HE'S JUST A PAWN IN SOME KIND OF PLOT TO--
WAIT...DO YOU FEEL DIZZY--?
WHY... YES, A LITTLE. HOW DID YOU--?


IT'S MY RADAR SENSE--BLAST!


DD AND NATASHA WHIRL TO FIND ANGAR--GONE, HAVING DISTORTED THEIR PERCEPTION WITH NO MORE THAN A LOW-PITCHED HUM!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, "HERO". IF YOU'D LET US RUSH HIM--
--WE'D ALL BE DEAD, WEBB. WOULD THAT SUIT YOU BETTER?
THANKS FOR THE ELOQUENT DEFENSE, PAUL--BUT I ALSO LET ANGAR ESCAPE.
AND WHO KNOWS WHERE HE'LL GO--OR WHAT HE'LL TRY NEXT?
WE'LL GET HIM, DD. DON'T WORRY.
ABOUT THAT, I'M NOT...


IT'S NATASHA I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
SHE WASN'T BLUFFING ANGAR--!
SHE REALLY WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM.
AND SOMEHOW, THAT SCARES ME--A LOT.
FINIS

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
20¢ 102 AUG 02459
DAREDEVIL®
AND THE
BLACK WIDOW
THE WIDOW'S OUT OF ACTION, HORNHEAD-- AND NOW FOR--
UNNHH!
THE ONLY THING THAT'S GONNA BE OUT, TALL MAN--IS YOU!
BUT, IF HER LIFELINE GIVES OUT BEFORE I BEAT STILTY--
--NATASHA'S HAD IT!
WHERE STALKS THE STILTMAN!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

STILT-MAN STALKS THE CITY!
HE SWINGS GRACEFULLY ACROSS THE DARK, MOON-SPEARED BAY, IGNORING THE WIND THAT SLASHES ACROSS WINTER-ICED STEEL...
AND THRU HIM!
YET STILL HE HURTLES ON, FOR DAREDEVIL IS A DESPERATE MAN THIS NIGHT...
A MAN UNDER A SENTENCE OF DEATH.

CHRIS CLAREMONT	SYD SHORES	FRANK GIACOIA	ARTIE SIMEK	ROY THOMAS
AUTHOR	ARTIST	INKER	COLORIST	EDITOR

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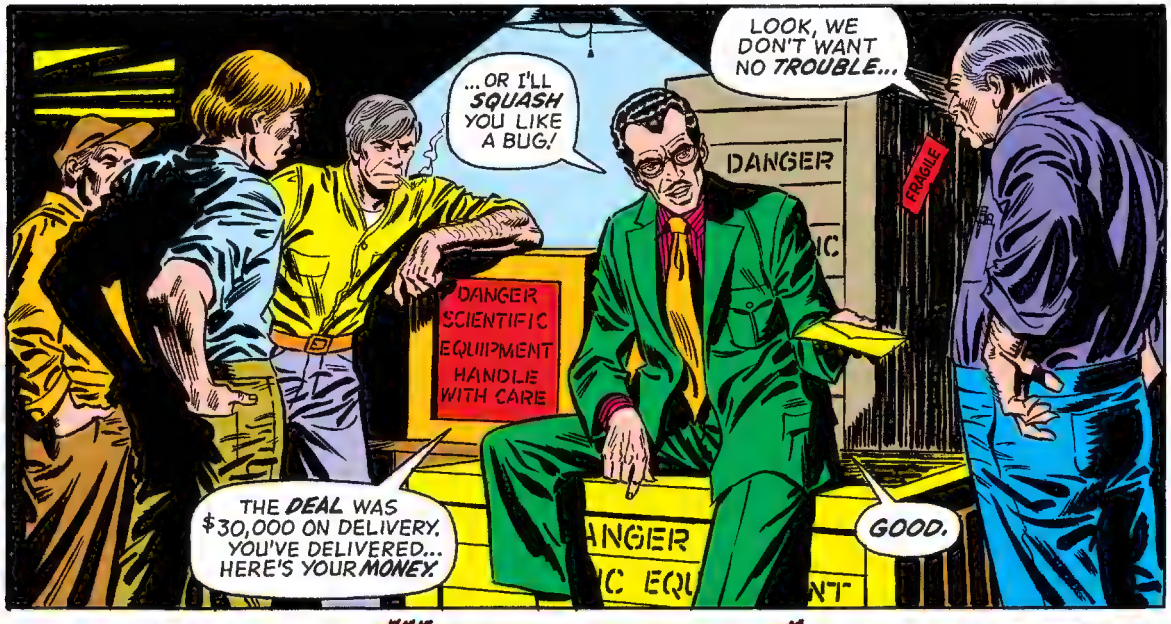
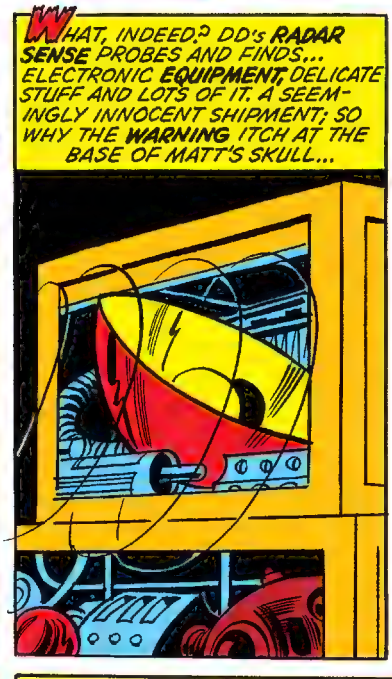
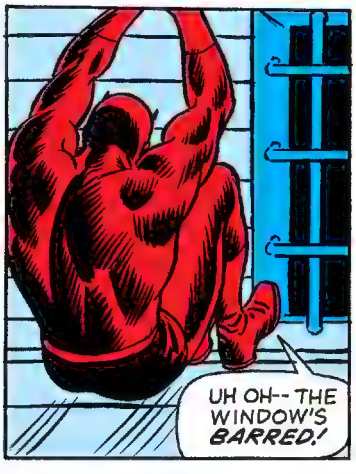
LOOKET THAT COSTUMED CLOWN.. SWINGIN' LIKE HE DIDN'T HAVE A MOMENT'S WORRY!
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU BLOODY FOOL! WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU ARE-- A CIRCUS??
OLYMPUS
AGH! WHY DON'T HE GO BACK EAST AND LET US BE.
DAREDEVIL SWINGS ON, UNHEEDING... HE HAS EARS FOR ONLY ONE MAN, NOW, ONE VOICE... BOTH SEARED INTO HIS MEMORY...
ANGAR!!
ALL DAY... ALL NIGHT... HE'S SEARCHED THIS CITY ON THE BAY...
...AND FOUND NOTHING!
NO MORE, MATTHEW-- YOU'VE HAD IT FOR NOW...
TIME TO HIT THE SACK... HOLD IT!
THAT HEARTBEAT... I KNOW IT!
BUT IT CAN'T BE. I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL IN PRISON...
NO, IT IS HIM. JUST MY LUCK-- FIRST ANGAR, NOW HIM!
WHAT'S HE SAYING?
ALL WE'RE SAYIN', MR. ROSS, IS THAT IT COST US MORE'N WE FIGURED TO GET THIS STUFF PAST CUSTOMS-- SO WE WANT MORE BREAD FROM YOU...
DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME, BARKER...

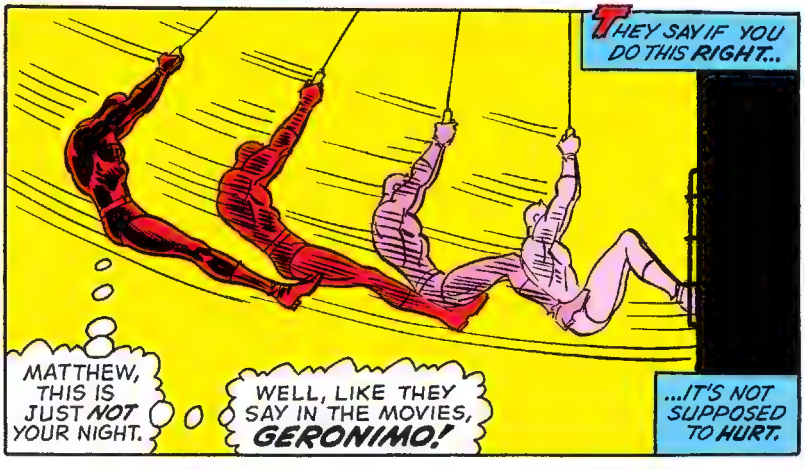

LOOK, WE DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE...
...OR I'LL SQUASH YOU LIKE A BUG!
DANGER
FRAGILE
DANGER SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT HANDLE WITH CARE
THE DEAL WAS $30,000 ON DELIVERY. YOU'VE DELIVERED... HERE'S YOUR MONEY.
GOOD.

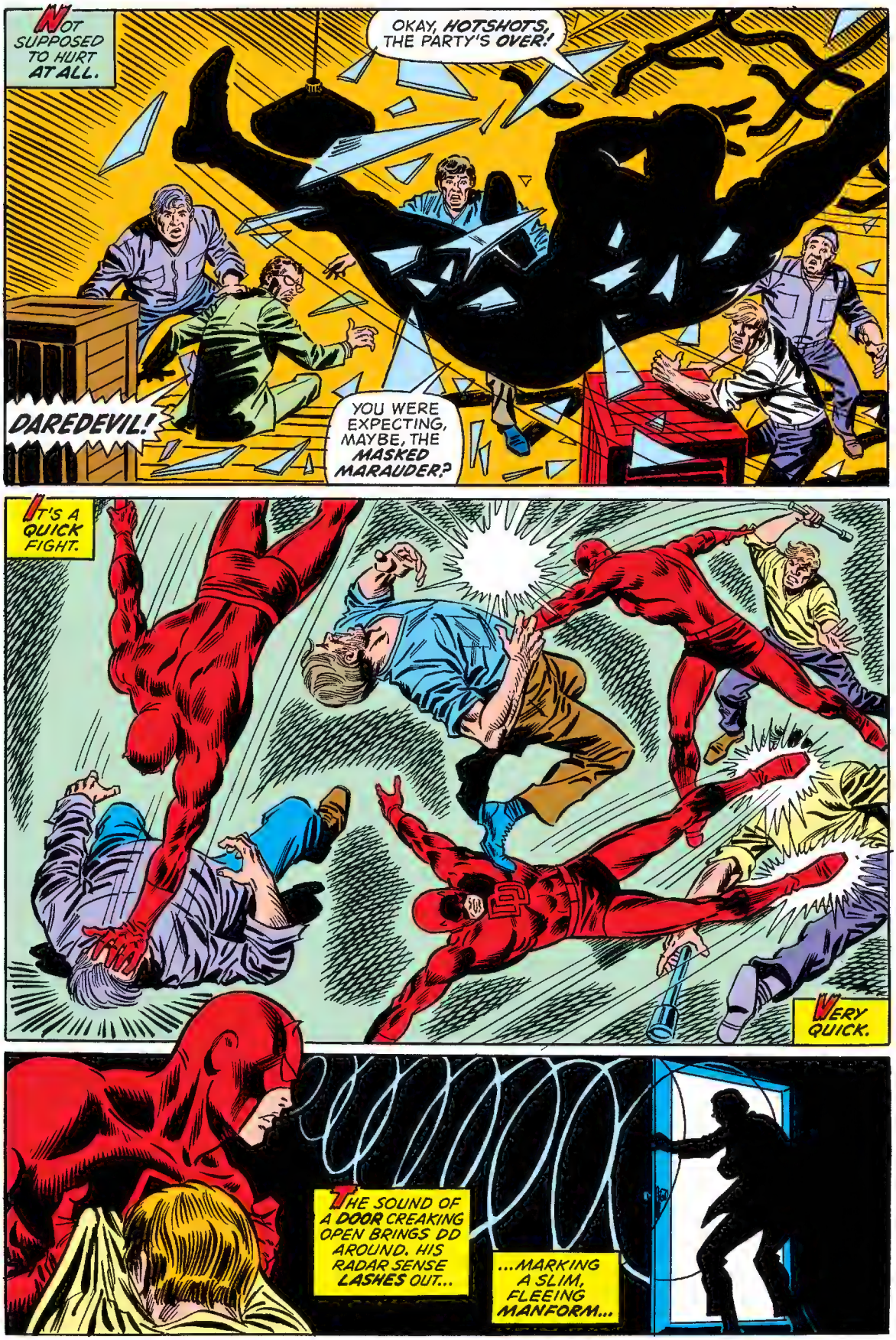
WATCH YOURSELF, BARKER-- YOU'RE PLAYING IN THE BIG LEAGUES NOW...
WONDER WHAT'S IN THOSE CRATES?


WHAT, INDEED? DD's RADAR SENSE PROBES AND FINDS... ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, DELICATE STUFF AND LOTS OF IT. A SEEMINGLY INNOCENT SHIPMENT; SO WHY THE WARNING ITCH AT THE BASE OF MATT'S SKULL...

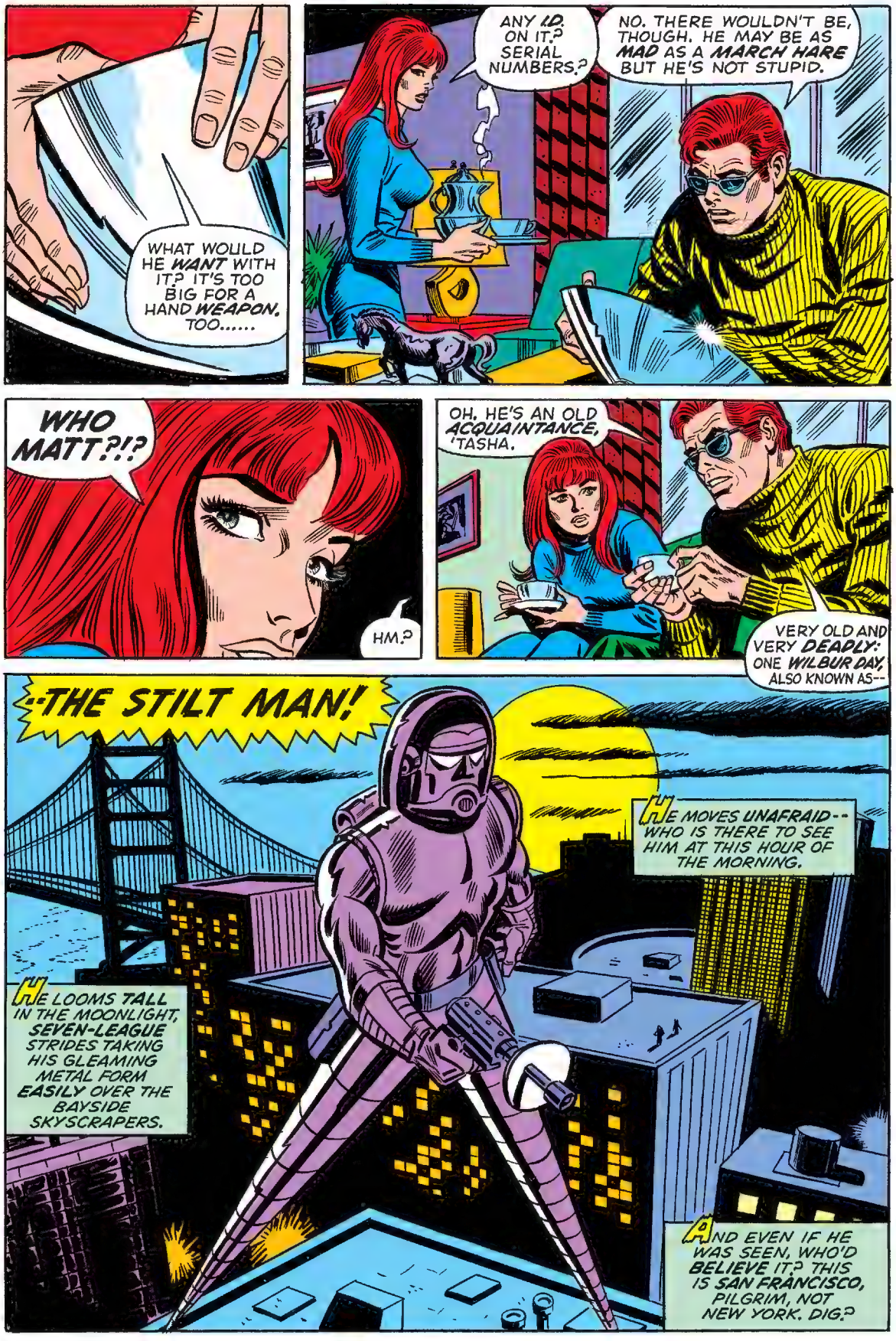
AN ITCH THAT PUSHES HIM INTO ACTION!
NO TIME TO CALL 'TASHA OR PAUL.
AND YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS GONNA BE A SLOW MORNING.

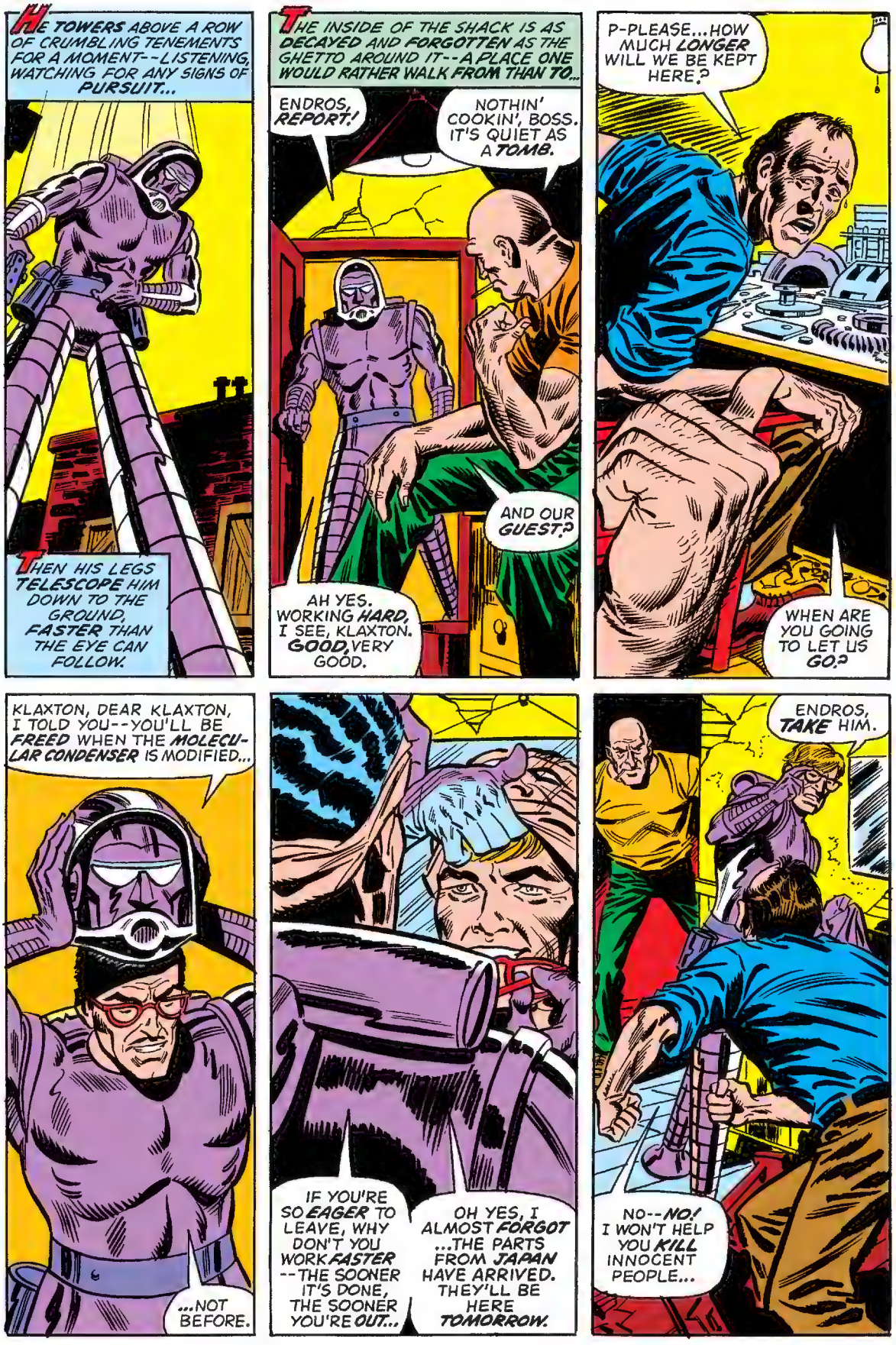

UH OH-- THE WINDOW'S BARRED!

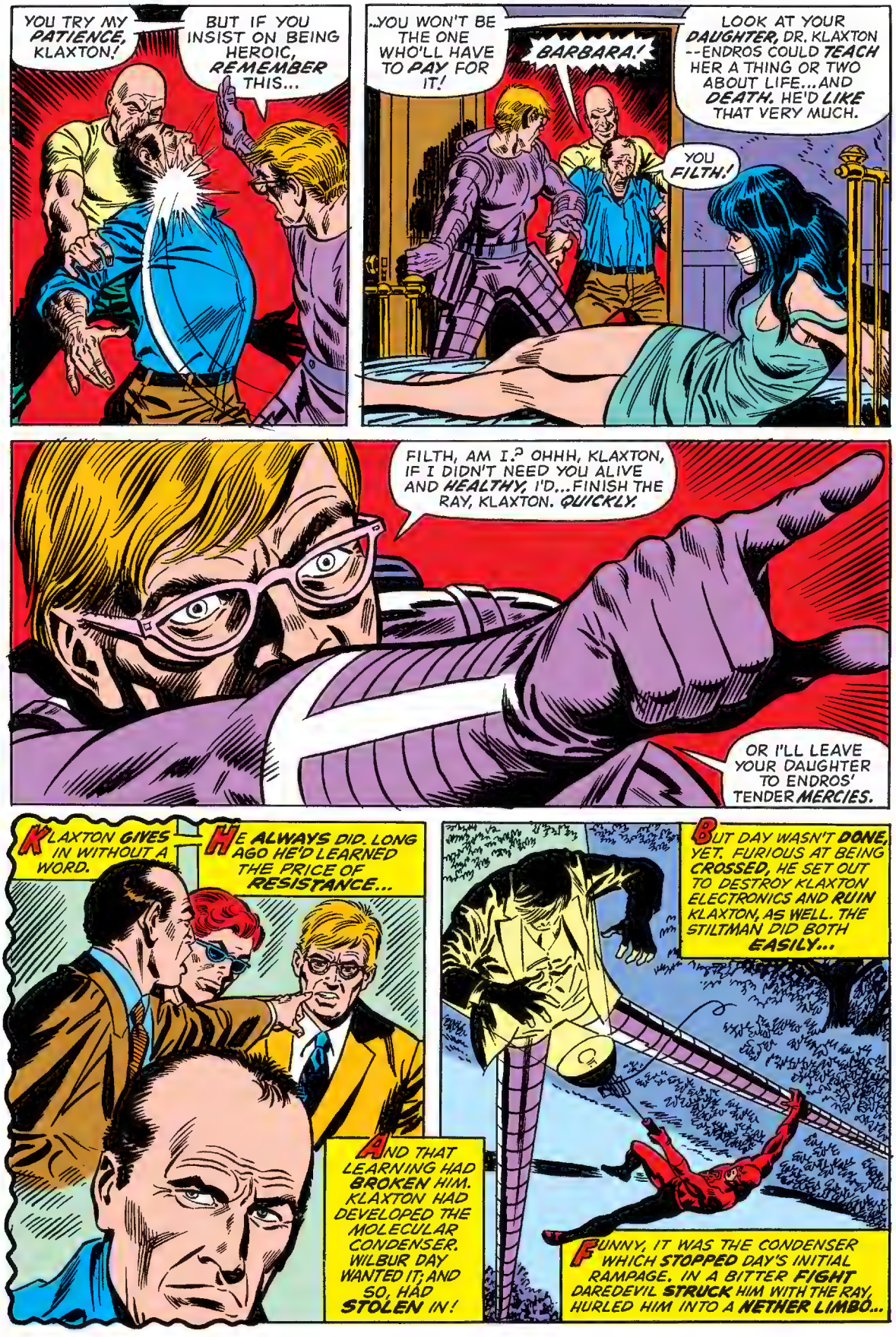

THEY SAY IF YOU DO THIS RIGHT...
MATTHEW, THIS IS JUST NOT YOUR NIGHT.
WELL, LIKE THEY SAY IN THE MOVIES, GERONIMO!
...IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HURT.


NOT SUPPOSED TO HURT AT ALL.
OKAY, HOTSHOTS, THE PARTY'S OVER!
DAREDEVIL!
YOU WERE EXPECTING, MAYBE, THE MASKED MARAUDER?
IT'S A QUICK FIGHT.
VERY QUICK.
THE SOUND OF A DOOR CREAKING OPEN BRINGS DD AROUND. HIS RADAR SENSE LASHES OUT...
...MARKING A SLIM, FLEEING MANFORM...

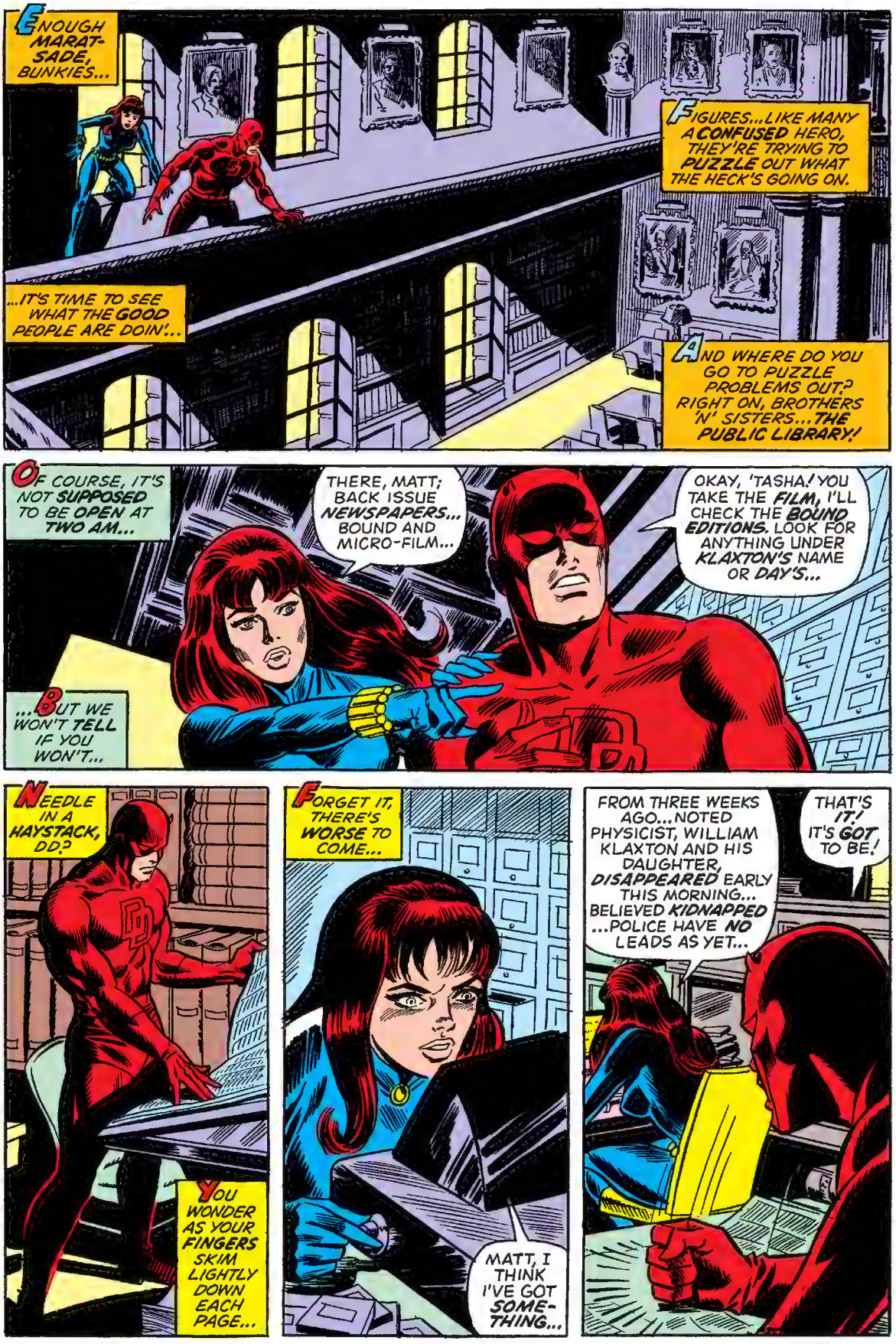
YOU CRUD! YOU COST US THIRTY GRAND! I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL...
I'D LIKE TO PLAY, CHUBBINS, BUT RIGHT NOW...
FWAP!
...I HAVEN'T THE TIME.
NOR HAVE I, MASKED MAN-- BUT HERE'S SOMETHING...
" ...TO REMEMBER ME BY. "
GAS!!
LUNGS... CAN'T BREATHE... RADAR SENSE WON'T FOCUS...
FOOTSTEPS FADE QUICKLY INTO THE FOG, LEAVING A SICK, BONE-WEARY MAN IN THEIR WAKE...
STUPID... AHHH, MY HEAD!
TOO GROGGY TO FOLLOW HIM.
SO WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE?
A DISH ANTENNA? A NEW ONE, VERY FINELY GROUND...

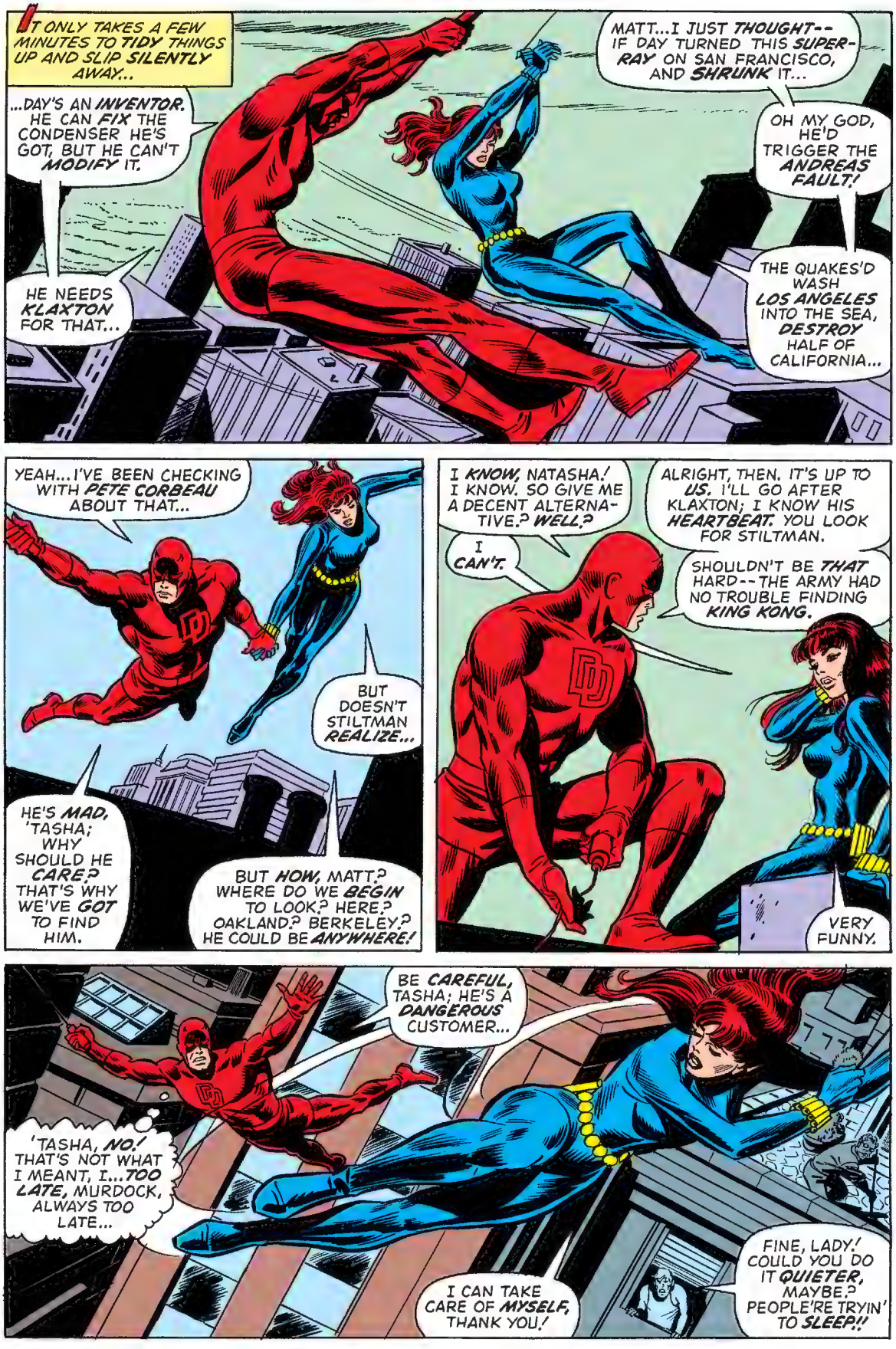

WHAT WOULD HE WANT WITH IT? IT'S TOO BIG FOR A HAND WEAPON, TOO.....
ANY I.D. ON IT? SERIAL NUMBERS?
NO. THERE WOULDN'T BE, THOUGH. HE MAY BE AS MAD AS A MARCH HARE BUT HE'S NOT STUPID.
WHO MATT?!?
HM.?
OH. HE'S AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, 'TASHA.
VERY OLD AND VERY DEADLY: ONE WILBUR DAY, ALSO KNOWN AS--
--THE STILT MAN!
HE LOOMS TALL IN THE MOONLIGHT, SEVEN-LEAGUE STRIDES TAKING HIS GLEAMING METAL FORM EASILY OVER THE BAYSIDE SKYSCRAPERS.
HE MOVES UNAFRAID-- WHO IS THERE TO SEE HIM AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING.
AND EVEN IF HE WAS SEEN, WHO'D BELIEVE IT? THIS IS SAN FRANCISCO, PILGRIM, NOT NEW YORK. DIG?

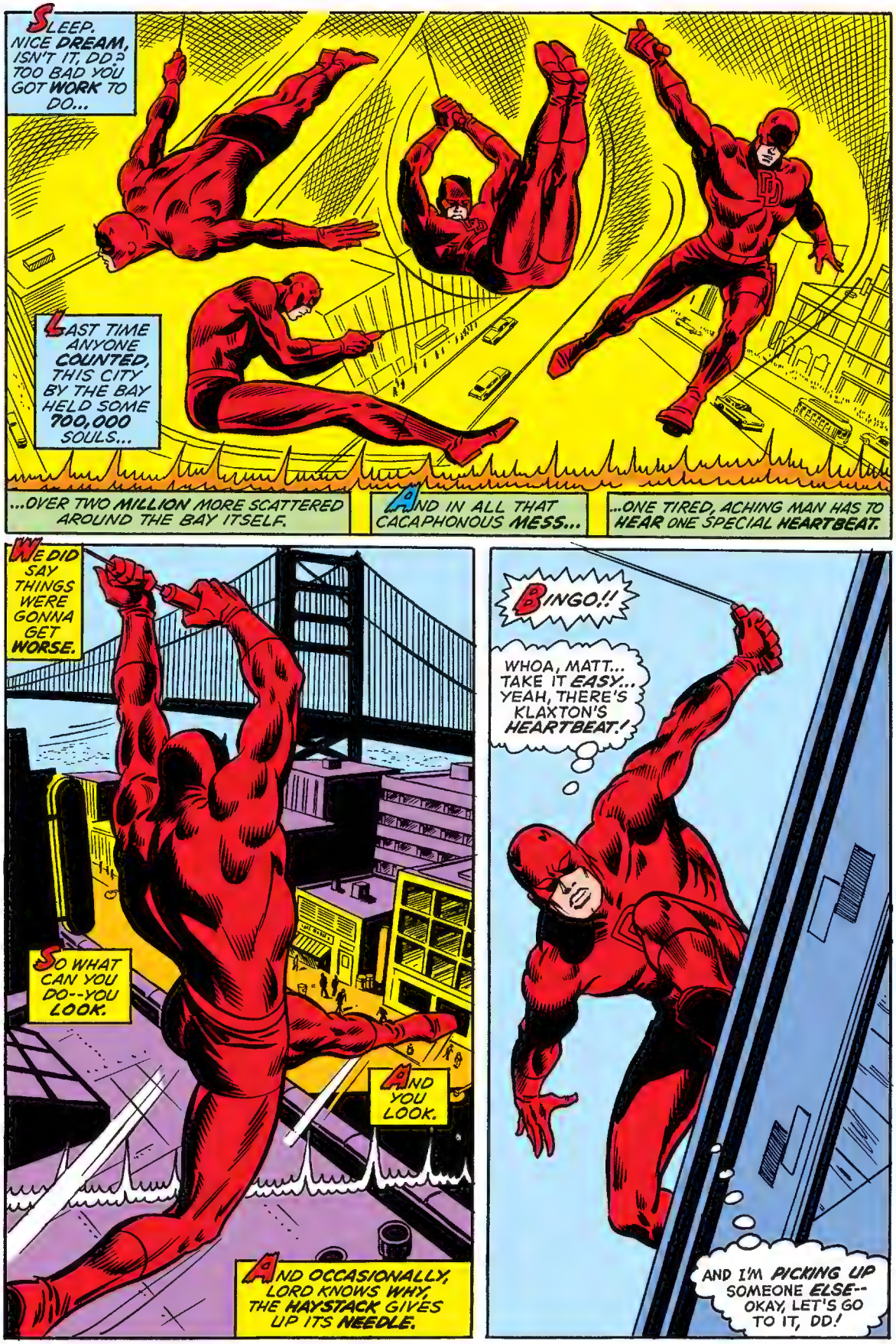

HE TOWERS ABOVE A ROW OF CRUMBLING TENEMENTS FOR A MOMENT--LISTENING, WATCHING FOR ANY SIGNS OF PURSUIT...
THEN HIS LEGS TELESCOPE HIM DOWN TO THE GROUND, FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW.
THE INSIDE OF THE SHACK IS AS DECAYED AND FORGOTTEN AS THE GHETTO AROUND IT--A PLACE ONE WOULD RATHER WALK FROM THAN TO...
ENDROS, REPORT!
NOTHIN' COOKIN', BOSS. IT'S QUIET AS A TOMB.
AND OUR GUEST?
AH YES. WORKING HARD, I SEE, KLAXTON. GOOD, VERY GOOD.
P-PLEASE...HOW MUCH LONGER WILL WE BE KEPT HERE?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET US GO?
KLAXTON, DEAR KLAXTON, I TOLD YOU--YOU'LL BE FREED WHEN THE MOLECULAR CONDENSER IS MODIFIED...
...NOT BEFORE.
IF YOU'RE SO EAGER TO LEAVE, WHY DON'T YOU WORK FASTER --THE SOONER IT'S DONE, THE SOONER YOU'RE OUT...
OH YES, I ALMOST FORGOT ...THE PARTS FROM JAPAN HAVE ARRIVED. THEY'LL BE HERE TOMORROW.
ENDROS, TAKE HIM.
NO--NO! I WON'T HELP YOU KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE...

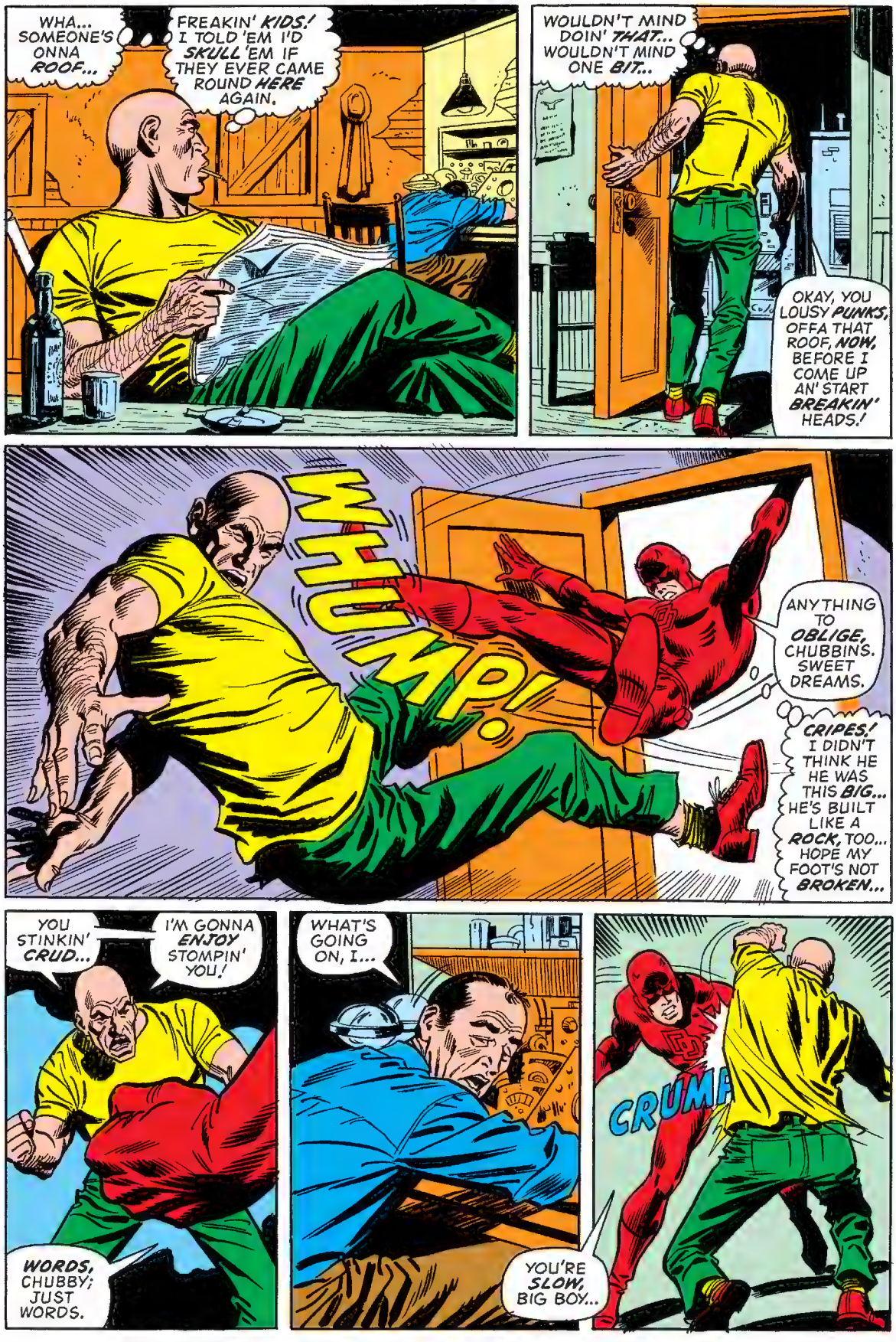

YOU TRY MY PATIENCE, KLAXTON!
BUT IF YOU INSIST ON BEING HEROIC, REMEMBER THIS...
..YOU WON'T BE THE ONE WHO'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT!
BARBARA!
LOOK AT YOUR DAUGHTER, DR. KLAXTON --ENDROS COULD TEACH HER A THING OR TWO ABOUT LIFE...AND DEATH. HE'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH.
YOU FILTH!
FILTH, AM I.? OHHH, KLAXTON, IF I DIDN'T NEED YOU ALIVE AND HEALTHY, I'D...FINISH THE RAY, KLAXTON. QUICKLY.
OR I'LL LEAVE YOUR DAUGHTER TO ENDROS' TENDER MERCIES.
KLAXTON GIVES IN WITHOUT A WORD.
HE ALWAYS DID. LONG AGO HE'D LEARNED THE PRICE OF RESISTANCE...
AND THAT LEARNING HAD BROKEN HIM. KLAXTON HAD DEVELOPED THE MOLECULAR CONDENSER. WILBUR DAY WANTED IT; AND SO, HAD STOLEN IN!
BUT DAY WASN'T DONE, YET. FURIOUS AT BEING CROSSED, HE SET OUT TO DESTROY KLAXTON ELECTRONICS AND RUIN KLAXTON, AS WELL. THE STILTMAN DID BOTH EASILY...
FUNNY, IT WAS THE CONDENSER WHICH STOPPED DAY'S INITIAL RAMPAGE. IN A BITTER FIGHT DAREDEVIL STRUCK HIM WITH THE RAY, HURLED HIM INTO A NETHER LIMBO...

FOR A TIME, THE NIGHTMARE WAS PAST... KLAXTON WAS A GOOD PHYSICIST, GOOD ENOUGH TO GET A FAIR JOB AND KEEP IT. TROUBLE WAS, HE OFTEN HAD TO WORK LATE...
...AND ALONE.
AND THAT MADE HIM VULNERABLE.
YOU!
HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MY DEAR KLAXTON. ENDROS--THE DOCTOR AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE COMING WITH US...
TWA
AIR LINES
KLAXTON SAT QUIETLY ON THE FLIGHT WEST, LISTENING TO DAY'S MAD RAMBLINGS, WHILE ENDROS SAT A FEW SEATS AWAY WITH BARBARA--READY TO KILL ON COMMAND...
THEY WERE OVER DENVER WHEN KLAXTON LEARNED OF DAY'S PET HATE... DAREDEVIL!
IT WAS A VERY BIG HATE.
WHEN THE RAY'S READY, I'LL TURN IT ON SAN FRANCISCO--A BILLION DOLLARS AND DAREDEVIL'S FRESH CORPSE, OR I'LL CRUSH THE CITY WITH MY THUMB...
...AND THEY'LL PAY, KLAXTON, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO LIVE... HA! PERHAPS I'LL TAKE THE MONEY AND DESTROY THE CITY ANYWAY!
WITH YOUR RAY, I CAN BE RULER OF THE WORLD. I CAN BE A GOD. DO YOU HEAR ME, KLAXTON...
...A GOD!!

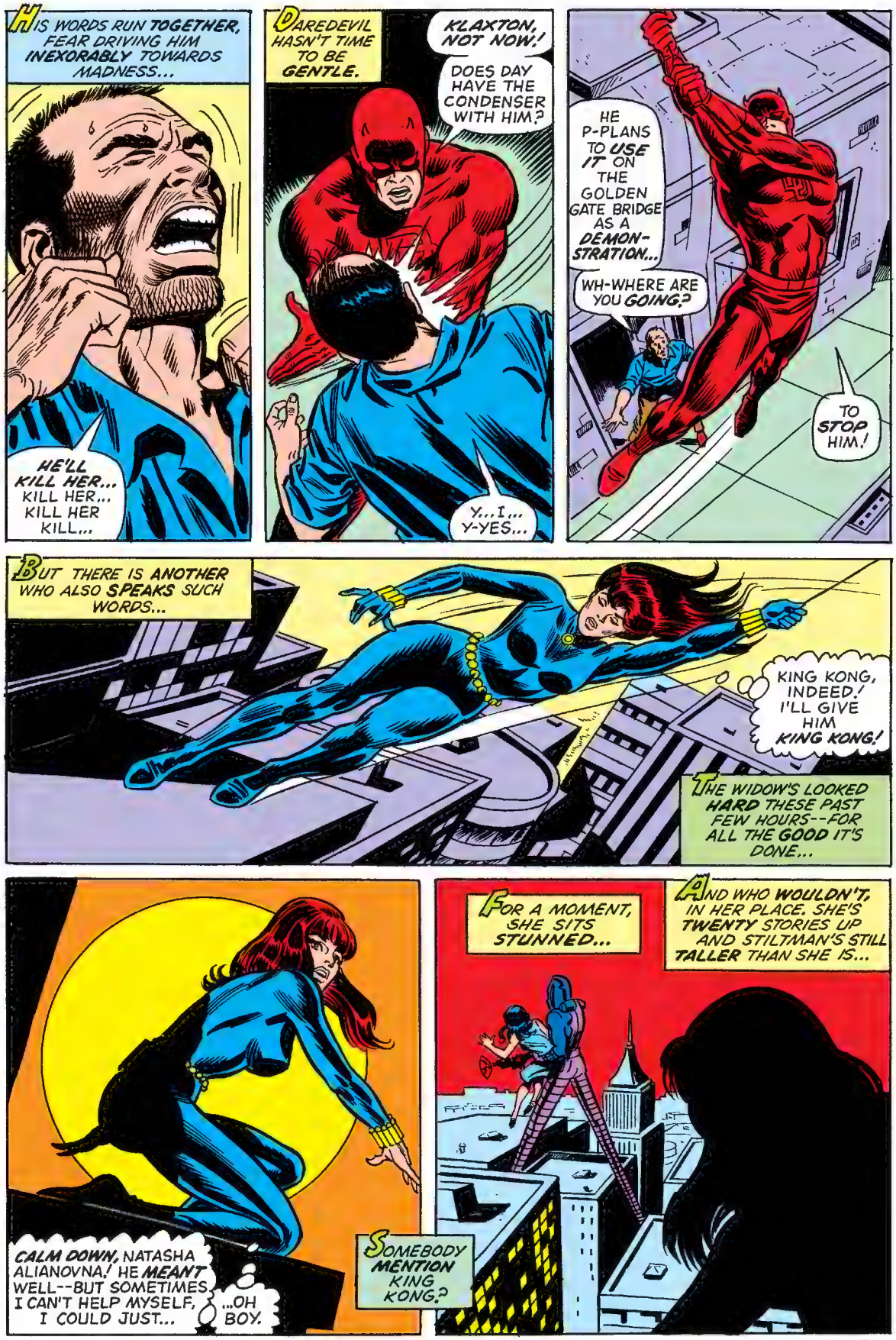

ENOUGH MARAT-SADE, BUNKIES...
FIGURES...LIKE MANY A CONFUSED HERO, THEY'RE TRYING TO PUZZLE OUT WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON.
...IT'S TIME TO SEE WHAT THE GOOD PEOPLE ARE DOIN'...
AND WHERE DO YOU GO TO PUZZLE PROBLEMS OUT? RIGHT ON, BROTHERS 'N' SISTERS... THE PUBLIC LIBRARY!
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE OPEN AT TWO AM...
THERE, MATT; BACK ISSUE NEWSPAPERS... BOUND AND MICRO-FILM...
OKAY, 'TASHA! YOU TAKE THE FILM, I'LL CHECK THE BOUND EDITIONS. LOOK FOR ANYTHING UNDER KLAXTON'S NAME OR DAY'S...
...BUT WE WON'T TELL IF YOU WON'T...
NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK, DD?
YOU WONDER AS YOUR FINGERS SKIM LIGHTLY DOWN EACH PAGE...
FORGET IT, THERE'S WORSE TO COME...
MATT, I THINK I'VE GOT SOME-THING...
FROM THREE WEEKS AGO...NOTED PHYSICIST, WILLIAM KLAXTON AND HIS DAUGHTER, DISAPPEARED EARLY THIS MORNING... BELIEVED KIDNAPPED ...POLICE HAVE NO LEADS AS YET...
THAT'S IT! IT'S GOT TO BE!

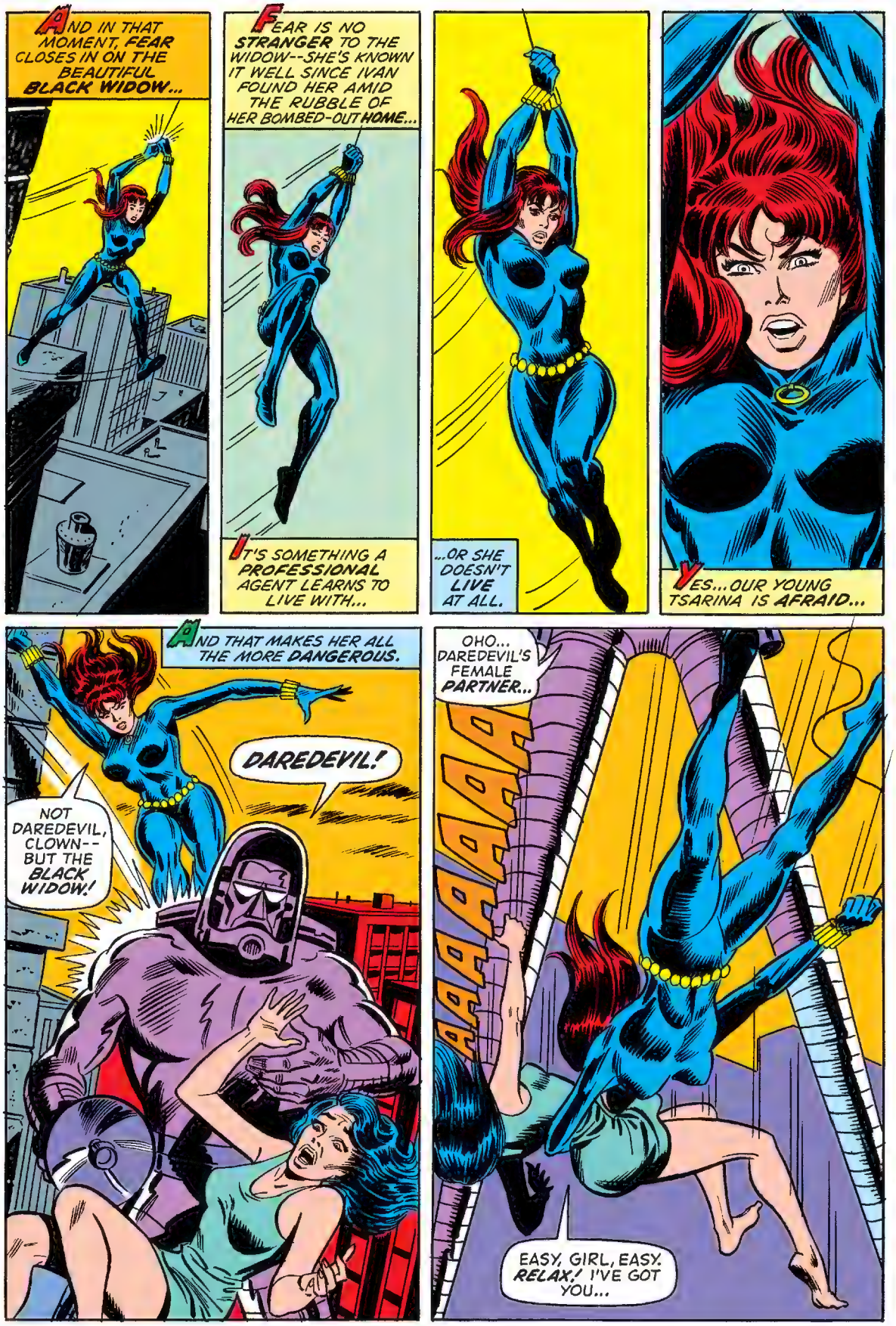

IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO TIDY THINGS UP AND SLIP SILENTLY AWAY...
...DAY'S AN INVENTOR. HE CAN FIX THE CONDENSER HE'S GOT, BUT HE CAN'T MODIFY IT.
HE NEEDS KLAXTON FOR THAT...
MATT...I JUST THOUGHT--IF DAY TURNED THIS SUPER-RAY ON SAN FRANCISCO, AND SHRUNK IT...
OH MY GOD, HE'D TRIGGER THE ANDREAS FAULT!
THE QUAKES'D WASH LOS ANGELES INTO THE SEA, DESTROY HALF OF CALIFORNIA...
YEAH...I'VE BEEN CHECKING WITH PETE CORBEAU ABOUT THAT...
BUT DOESN'T STILTMAN REALIZE...
HE'S MAD, 'TASHA; WHY SHOULD HE CARE? THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM.
BUT HOW, MATT? WHERE DO WE BEGIN TO LOOK? HERE? OAKLAND? BERKELEY? HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
I KNOW, NATASHA! I KNOW. SO GIVE ME A DECENT ALTERNATIVE? WELL?
I CAN'T.
ALRIGHT, THEN. IT'S UP TO US. I'LL GO AFTER KLAXTON; I KNOW HIS HEARTBEAT. YOU LOOK FOR STILTMAN.
SHOULDN'T BE THAT HARD--THE ARMY HAD NO TROUBLE FINDING KING KONG.
VERY FUNNY.
BE CAREFUL, TASHA; HE'S A DANGEROUS CUSTOMER...
'TASHA, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, I...TOO LATE, MURDOCK, ALWAYS TOO LATE...
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK YOU!
FINE, LADY! COULD YOU DO IT QUIETER, MAYBE? PEOPLE'RE TRYIN' TO SLEEP!!

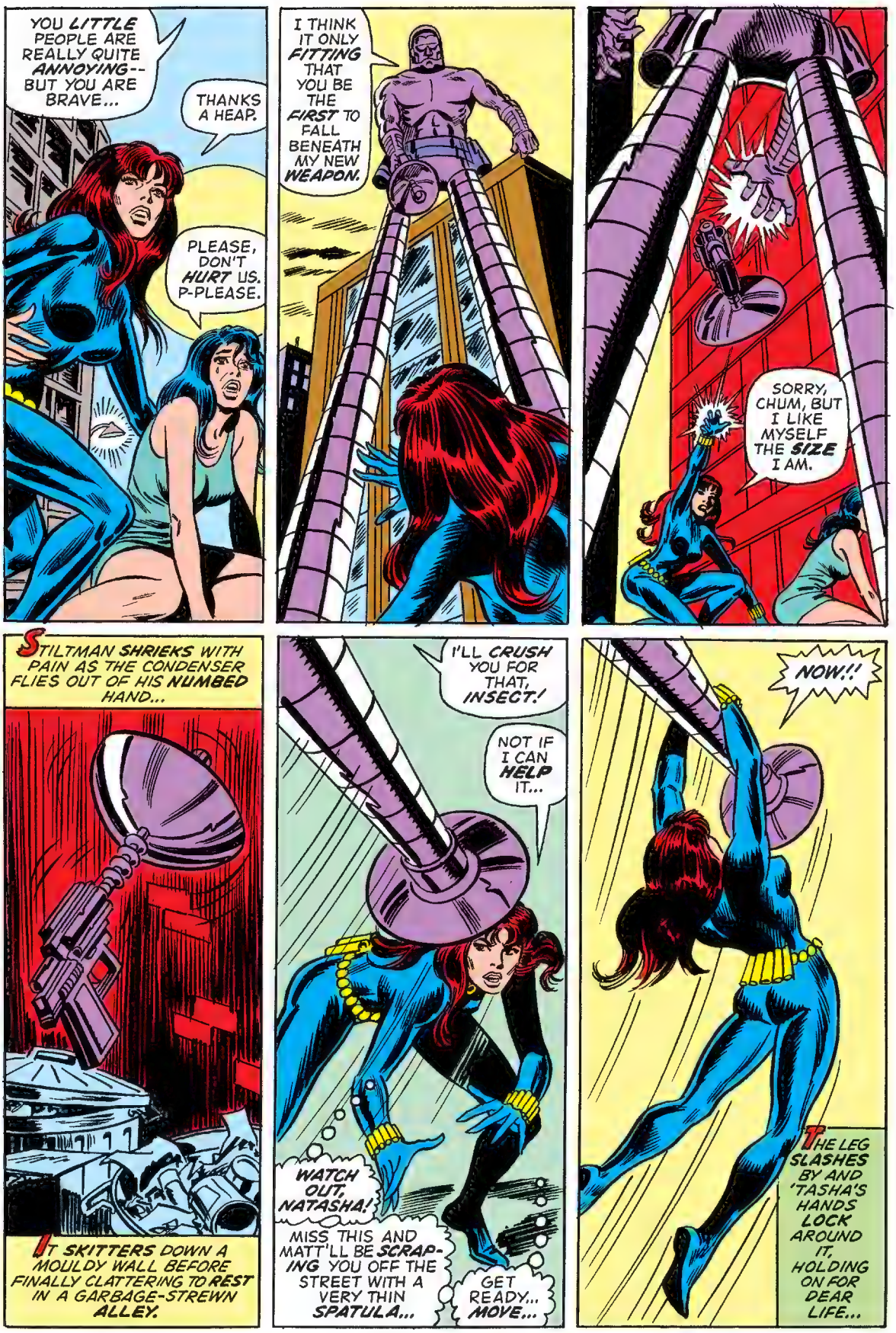

SLEEP. NICE DREAM, ISN'T IT, DD? TOO BAD YOU GOT WORK TO DO...
LAST TIME ANYONE COUNTED, THIS CITY BY THE BAY HELD SOME 700,000 SOULS...
...OVER TWO MILLION MORE SCATTERED AROUND THE BAY ITSELF.
AND IN ALL THAT CACAPHONOUS MESS...
...ONE TIRED, ACHING MAN HAS TO HEAR ONE SPECIAL HEARTBEAT.
WE DID SAY THINGS WERE GONNA GET WORSE.
SO WHAT CAN YOU DO--YOU LOOK.
AND YOU LOOK.
AND OCCASIONALLY, LORD KNOWS WHY, THE HAYSTACK GIVES UP ITS NEEDLE.
BINGO!!
WHOA, MATT... TAKE IT EASY... YEAH, THERE'S KLAXTON'S HEARTBEAT!
AND I'M PICKING UP SOMEONE ELSE-- OKAY, LET'S GO TO IT, DD!

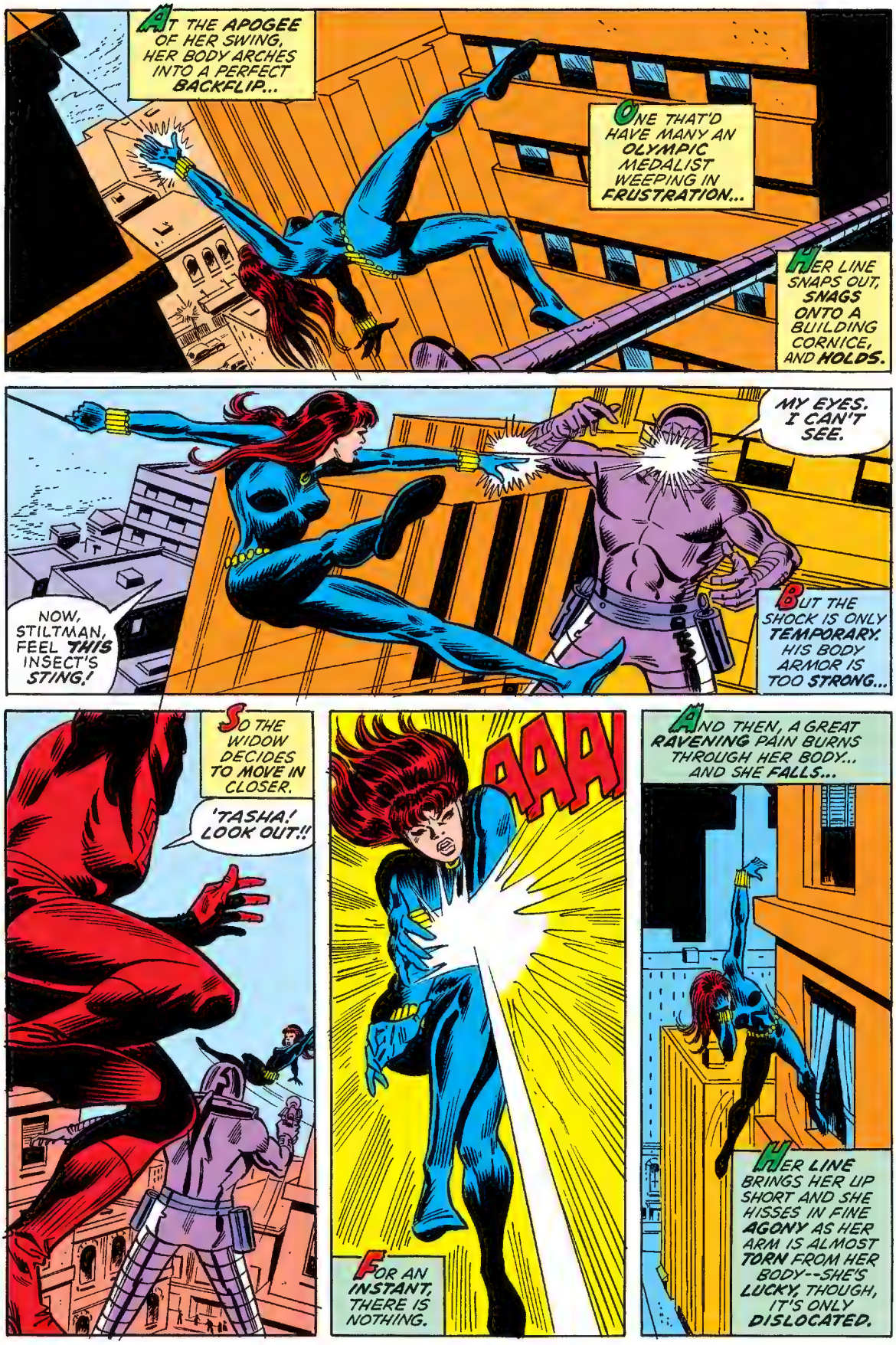

WHA... SOMEONE'S ONNA ROOF...
FREAKIN' KIDS! I TOLD 'EM I'D SKULL 'EM IF THEY EVER CAME ROUND HERE AGAIN.
WOULDN'T MIND DOIN' THAT... WOULDN'T MIND ONE BIT...
OKAY, YOU LOUSY PUNKS, OFFA THAT ROOF, NOW, BEFORE I COME UP AN' START BREAKIN' HEADS!
WHUMP!
ANYTHING TO OBLIGE, CHUBBINS. SWEET DREAMS.
CRIPES! I DIDN'T THINK HE HE WAS THIS BIG... HE'S BUILT LIKE A ROCK, TOO... HOPE MY FOOT'S NOT BROKEN...
YOU STINKIN' CRUD...
I'M GONNA ENJOY STOMPIN' YOU!
WORDS, CHUBBY; JUST WORDS.
WHAT'S GOING ON, I...
YOU'RE SLOW, BIG BOY...
CRUMP

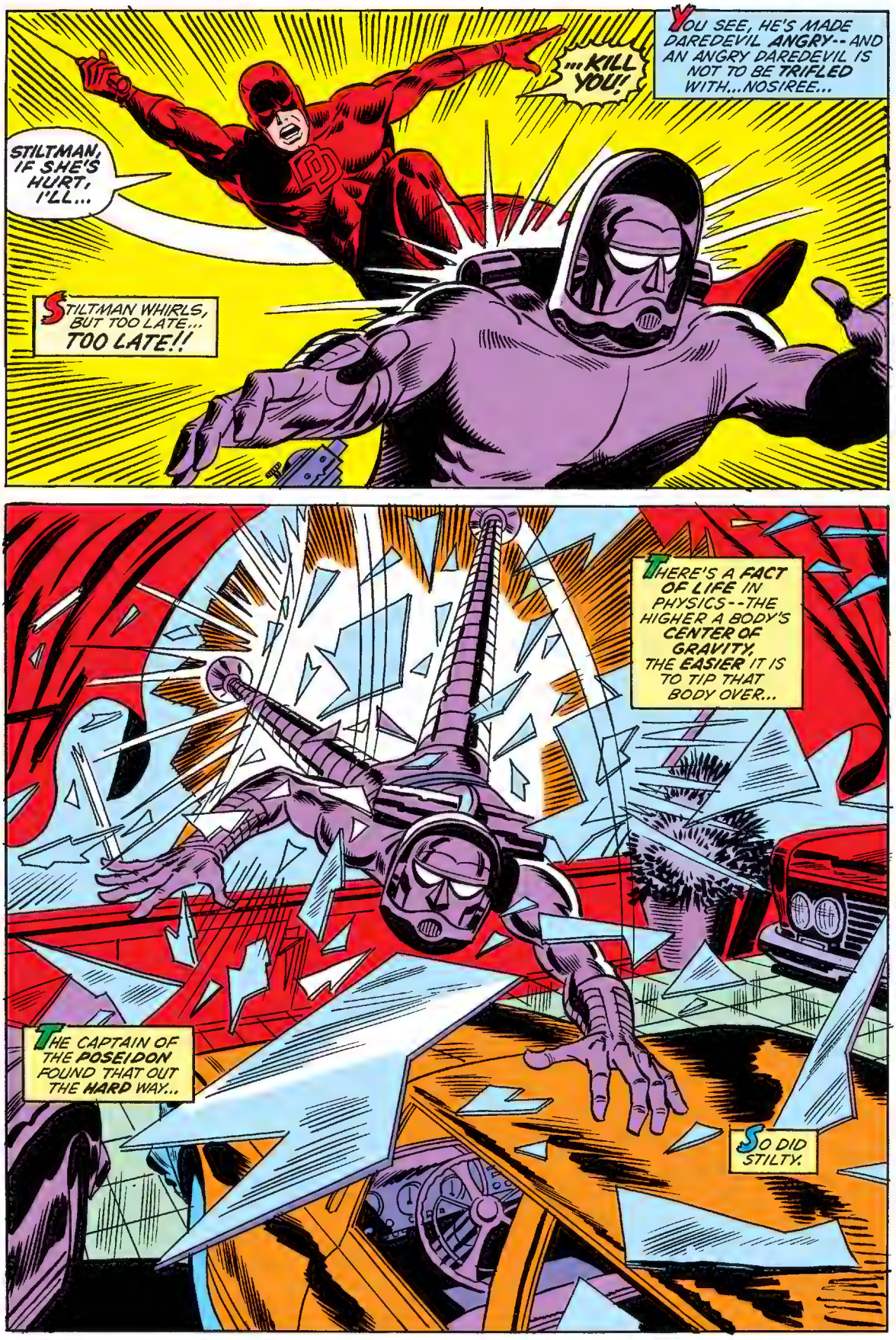
CRAACK!
...MUCH TOO SLOW!
MY HAND!
DAREDEVIL, THANK HEAVENS YOU'VE COME, I... WHAT'S WRONG??
YOUR FACE... SO GRIM... WHAT IS IT?
WHERE'S DAY?
ISN'T HE HERE? OH NO...NO! BARBARA!!
NOOOOO
HIS CRY ECHOES ACROSS THE GRIMY, LITTLE ROOM, QUICKLY SPIRALING UPWARD INTO SOUL-RACKING SOBS...
IT'S NOT KLAXTON'S FAULT HE'S WEAK--BROKEN THINGS ALWAYS ARE--IT'S JUST THAT HIS DAUGHTER IS ALL HE HAS LEFT NOW, AND HE LOVES HER SO VERY MUCH.

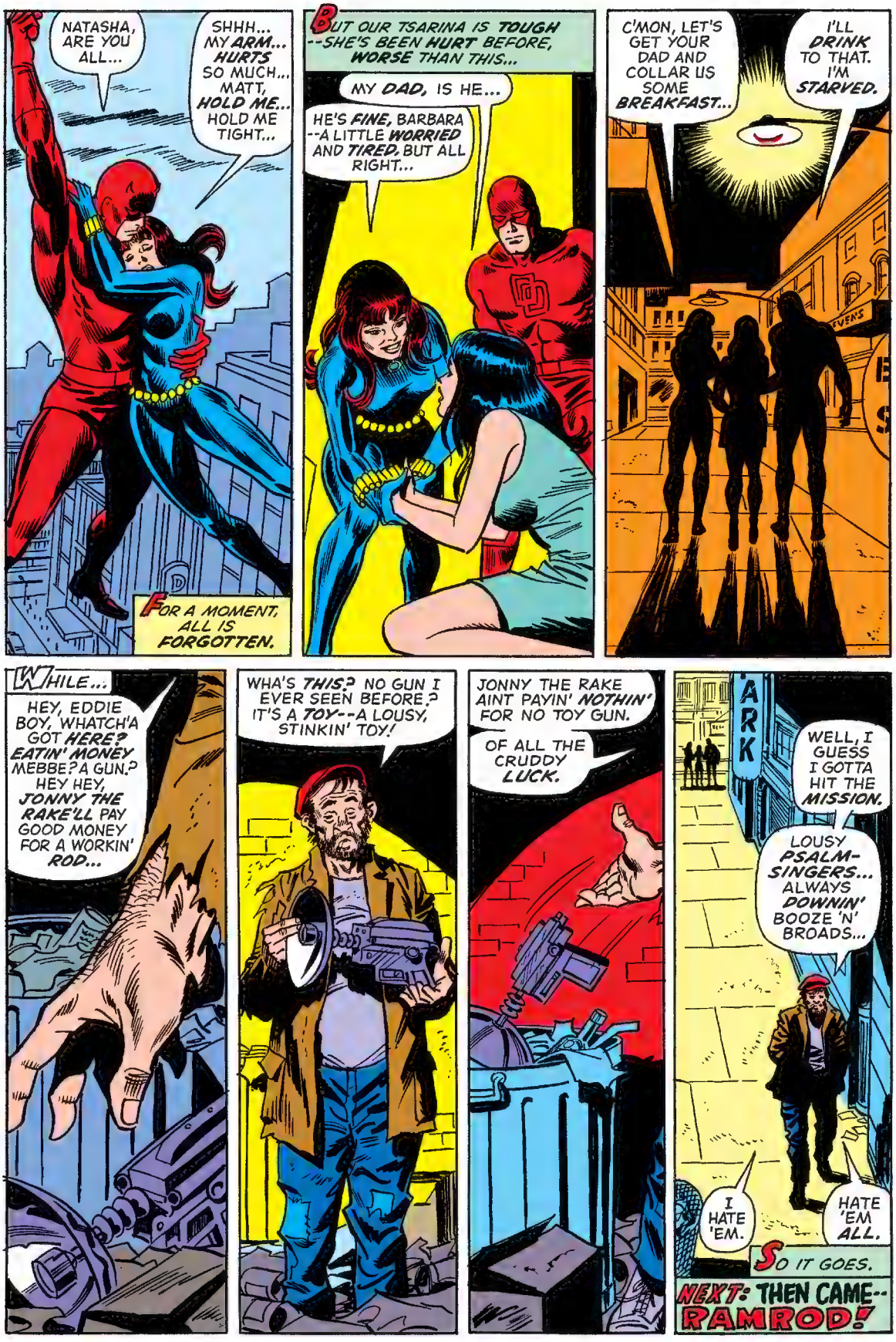

HIS WORDS RUN TOGETHER, FEAR DRIVING HIM INEXORABLY TOWARDS MADNESS...
HE'LL KILL HER... KILL HER... KILL HER KILL...
DAREDEVIL HASN'T TIME TO BE GENTLE.
KLAXTON, NOT NOW!
DOES DAY HAVE THE CONDENSER WITH HIM?
Y...I... Y-YES...
HE P-PLANS TO USE IT ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE AS A DEMON-STRATION...
WH-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO STOP HIM!
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WHO ALSO SPEAKS SUCH WORDS...
KING KONG, INDEED! I'LL GIVE HIM KING KONG!
THE WIDOW'S LOOKED HARD THESE PAST FEW HOURS--FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'S DONE...
CALM DOWN, NATASHA ALIANOVNA! HE MEANT WELL--BUT SOMETIMES I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, I COULD JUST...
...OH BOY.
SOMEBODY MENTION KING KONG?
FOR A MOMENT, SHE SITS STUNNED...
AND WHO WOULDN'T, IN HER PLACE. SHE'S TWENTY STORIES UP AND STILTMAN'S STILL TALLER THAN SHE IS...


AND IN THAT MOMENT, FEAR CLOSES IN ON THE BEAUTIFUL BLACK WIDOW...
FEAR IS NO STRANGER TO THE WIDOW--SHE'S KNOWN IT WELL SINCE IVAN FOUND HER AMID THE RUBBLE OF HER BOMBED-OUT HOME...
IT'S SOMETHING A PROFESSIONAL AGENT LEARNS TO LIVE WITH...
..OR SHE DOESN'T LIVE AT ALL.
YES...OUR YOUNG TSARINA IS AFRAID...
AND THAT MAKES HER ALL THE MORE DANGEROUS.
DAREDEVIL!
NOT DAREDEVIL, CLOWN--BUT THE BLACK WIDOW!
OHO... DAREDEVIL'S FEMALE PARTNER...
AAAAAAA
EASY, GIRL, EASY. RELAX! I'VE GOT YOU...


YOU LITTLE PEOPLE ARE REALLY QUITE ANNOYING-- BUT YOU ARE BRAVE...
THANKS A HEAP.
PLEASE, DON'T HURT US. P-PLEASE.
I THINK IT ONLY FITTING THAT YOU BE THE FIRST TO FALL BENEATH MY NEW WEAPON.
SORRY, CHUM, BUT I LIKE MYSELF THE SIZE I AM.
STILTMAN SHRIEKS WITH PAIN AS THE CONDENSER FLIES OUT OF HIS NUMBED HAND...
IT SKITTERS DOWN A MOULDY WALL BEFORE FINALLY CLATTERING TO REST IN A GARBAGE-STREWN ALLEY.
I'LL CRUSH YOU FOR THAT, INSECT!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT...
WATCH OUT, NATASHA!
MISS THIS AND MATT'LL BE SCRAPING YOU OFF THE STREET WITH A VERY THIN SPATULA...
GET READY... MOVE...
NOW!!
THE LEG SLASHES BY AND 'TASHA'S HANDS LOCK AROUND IT, HOLDING ON FOR DEAR LIFE...


AT THE APOGEE OF HER SWING, HER BODY ARCHES INTO A PERFECT BACKFLIP...
ONE THAT'D HAVE MANY AN OLYMPIC MEDALIST WEEPING IN FRUSTRATION...
HER LINE SNAPS OUT, SNAGS ONTO A BUILDING CORNICE, AND HOLDS.
MY EYES. I CAN'T SEE.
NOW, STILTMAN, FEEL THIS INSECT'S STING!
BUT THE SHOCK IS ONLY TEMPORARY. HIS BODY ARMOR IS TOO STRONG...
SO THE WIDOW DECIDES TO MOVE IN CLOSER.
'TASHA! LOOK OUT!!
AAA!
FOR AN INSTANT, THERE IS NOTHING.
AND THEN, A GREAT RAVENING PAIN BURNS THROUGH HER BODY... AND SHE FALLS...
HER LINE BRINGS HER UP SHORT AND SHE HISSES IN FINE AGONY AS HER ARM IS ALMOST TORN FROM HER BODY--SHE'S LUCKY, THOUGH, IT'S ONLY DISLOCATED.

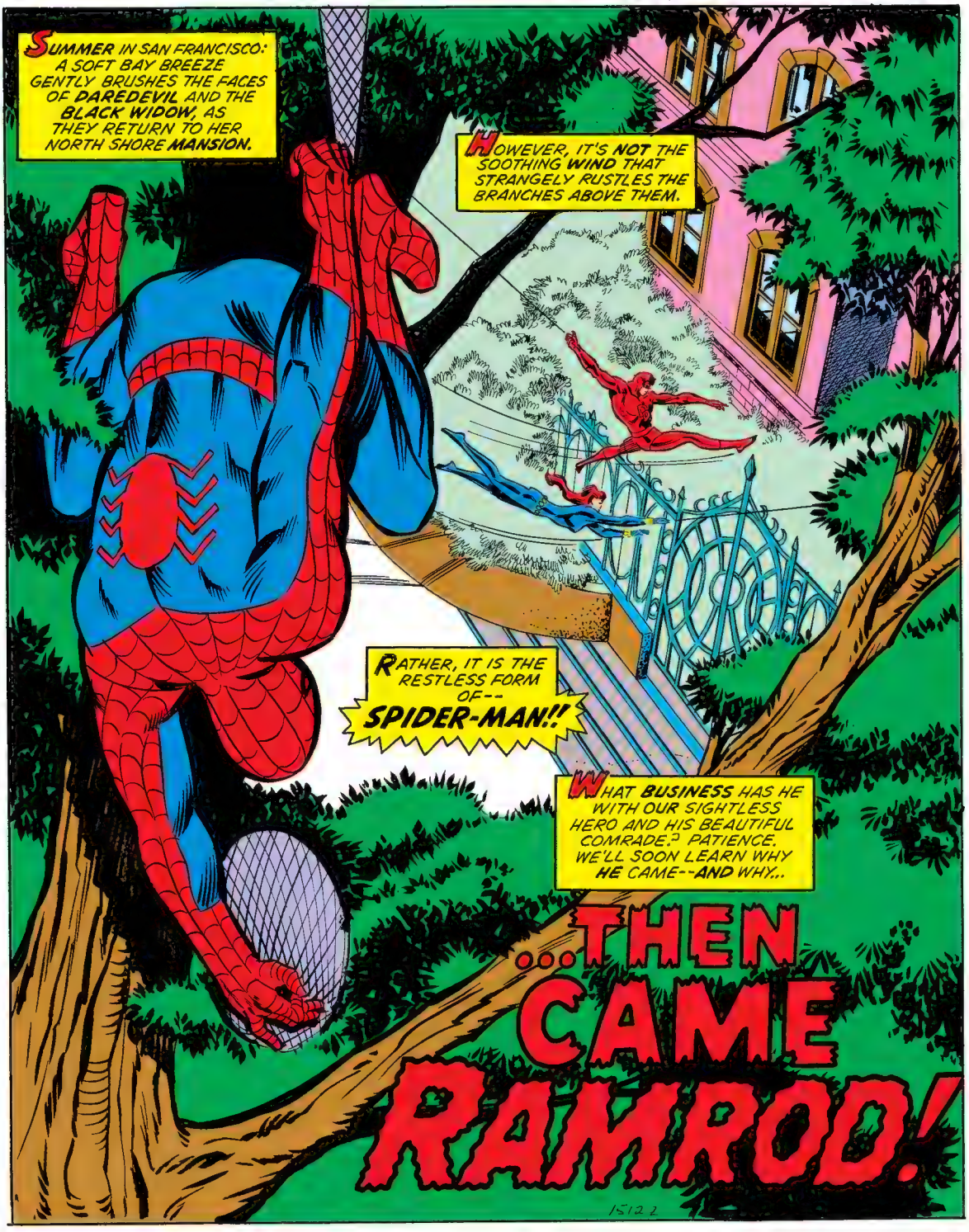

STILTMAN, IF SHE'S HURT, I'LL...
...KILL YOU!
YOU SEE, HE'S MADE DAREDEVIL ANGRY-- AND AN ANGRY DAREDEVIL IS NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH...NOSIREE...
STILTMAN WHIRLS, BUT TOO LATE... TOO LATE!!
THERE'S A FACT OF LIFE IN PHYSICS--THE HIGHER A BODY'S CENTER OF GRAVITY, THE EASIER IT IS TO TIP THAT BODY OVER...
THE CAPTAIN OF THE POSEIDON FOUND THAT OUT THE HARD WAY...
SO DID STILTY.


NATASHA, ARE YOU ALL...
SHHH... MY ARM... HURTS SO MUCH... MATT, HOLD ME... HOLD ME TIGHT...
FOR A MOMENT, ALL IS FORGOTTEN.
BUT OUR TSARINA IS TOUGH --SHE'S BEEN HURT BEFORE, WORSE THAN THIS...
MY DAD, IS HE...
HE'S FINE, BARBARA --A LITTLE WORRIED AND TIRED, BUT ALL RIGHT...
C'MON, LET'S GET YOUR DAD AND COLLAR US SOME BREAKFAST...
I'LL DRINK TO THAT. I'M STARVED.
EVENS
WHILE...
HEY, EDDIE BOY, WHATCH'A GOT HERE? EATIN' MONEY MEBBE? A GUN.? HEY HEY, JONNY THE RAKE'LL PAY GOOD MONEY FOR A WORKIN' ROD...
WHA'S THIS? NO GUN I EVER SEEN BEFORE.? IT'S A TOY--A LOUSY, STINKIN' TOY!
JONNY THE RAKE AINT PAYIN' NOTHIN' FOR NO TOY GUN.
OF ALL THE CRUDDY LUCK.
ARK
WELL, I GUESS I GOTTA HIT THE MISSION.
LOUSY PSALM-SINGERS... ALWAYS DOWNIN' BOOZE 'N' BROADS...
I HATE 'EM.
HATE 'EM ALL.
SO IT GOES.
NEXT: THEN CAME-- RAMROD!

DAREDEVIL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
20¢
103
SEPT
02459
DAREDEVIL®
AND THE
BLACK WIDOW
™
FACE IT HORNHEAD--
SPIDER-MAN CAN'T HELP YOU-- AND NEITHER CAN THE WIDOW!
AIN'T ENOUGH SUPERHEROES IN THE WORLD TO BEAT UP ON RAMROD!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

STEVE GERBER . DON HECK . SAL TRAPANI . ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERING . ROY THOMAS
STORY ART INKING G. ROUSSOS, COLORING EDITOR


SUMMER IN SAN FRANCISCO: A SOFT BAY BREEZE GENTLY BRUSHES THE FACES OF DAREDEVIL AND THE BLACK WIDOW, AS THEY RETURN TO HER NORTH SHORE MANSION.
HOWEVER, IT'S NOT THE SOOTHING WIND THAT STRANGELY RUSTLES THE BRANCHES ABOVE THEM.
RATHER, IT IS THE RESTLESS FORM OF-- SPIDER-MAN!!
WHAT BUSINESS HAS HE WITH OUR SIGHTLESS HERO AND HIS BEAUTIFUL COMRADE...? PATIENCE. WE'LL SOON LEARN WHY HE CAME--AND WHY...
...THEN CAME RAMROD!
1512 2

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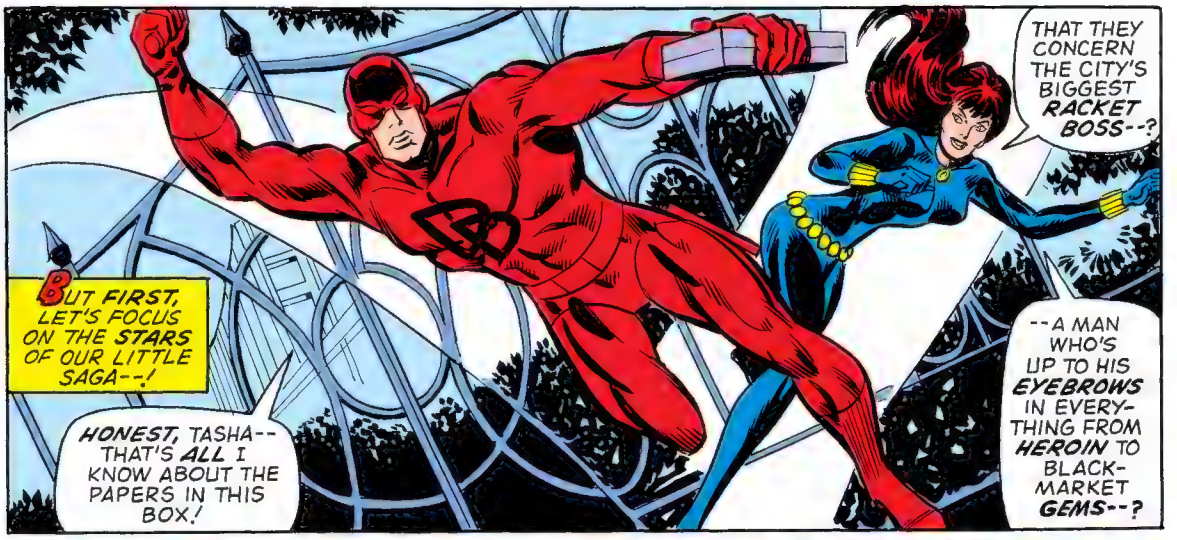
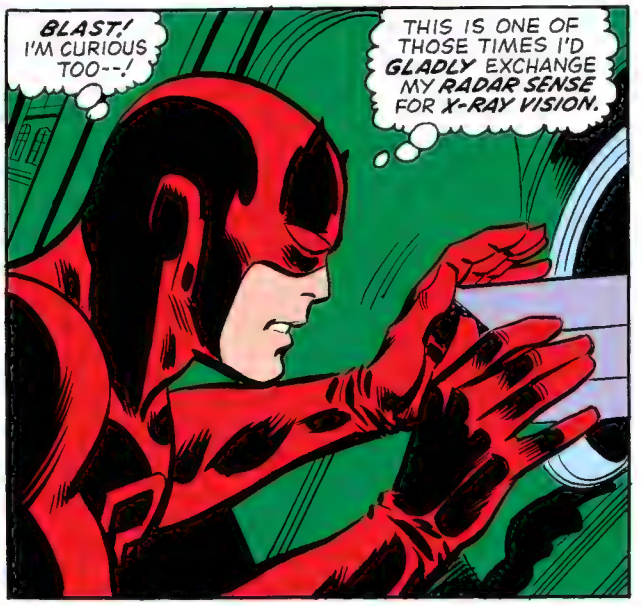

BUT FIRST, LET'S FOCUS ON THE STARS OF OUR LITTLE SAGA--!
HONEST, TASHA--THAT'S ALL I KNOW ABOUT THE PAPERS IN THIS BOX!
--A MAN WHO'S UP TO HIS EYEBROWS IN EVERYTHING FROM HEROIN TO BLACK-MARKET GEMS--?
THAT THEY CONCERN THE CITY'S BIGGEST RACKET BOSS--?

AND THAT THEY WERE ALMOST STOLEN FROM THE ROLLING STONE OFFICES.*
*SEE DD/BW#100. --R.T.

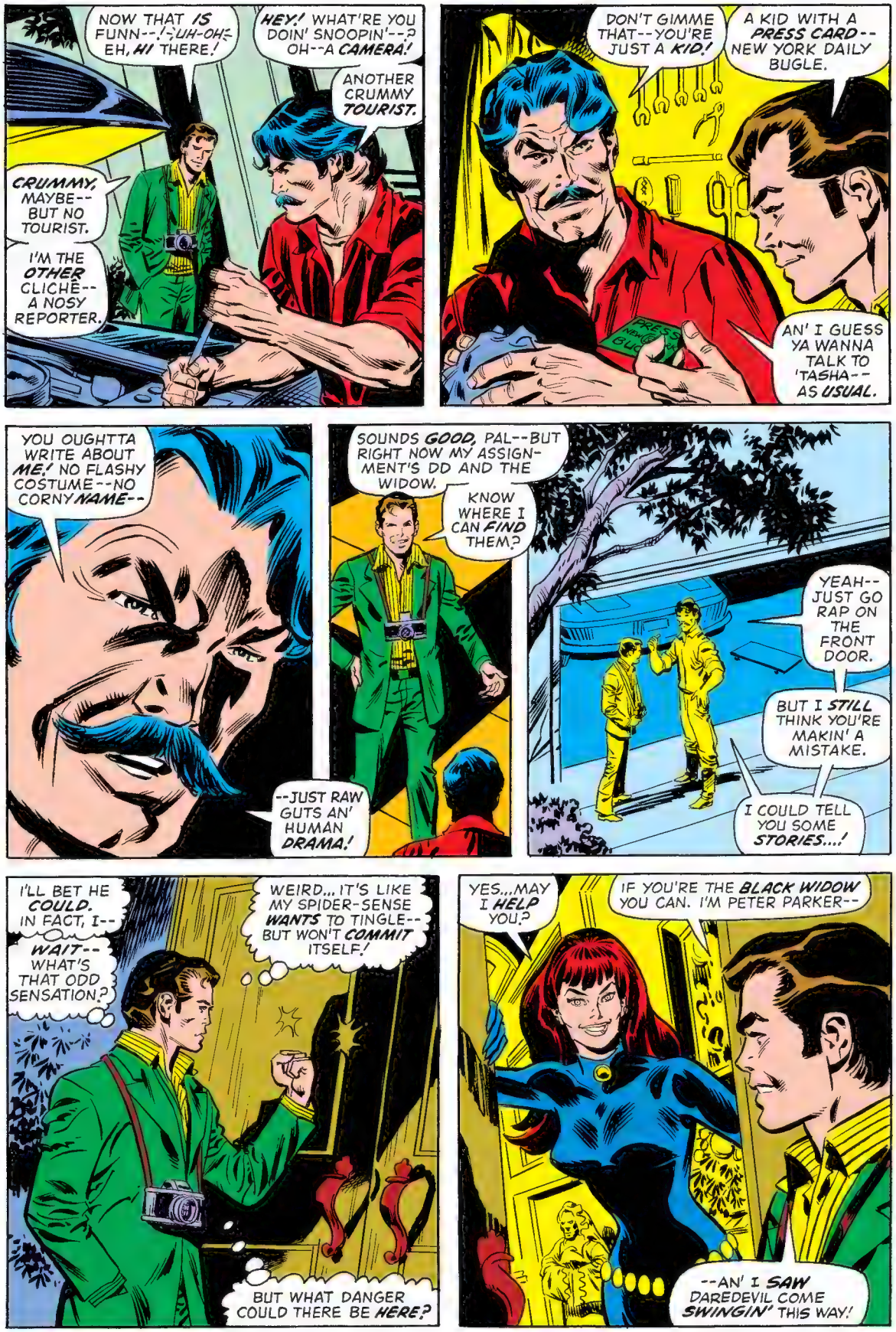
SO THE EDITOR WANTS YOU TO HOLD THEM FOR SAFEKEEPING--
--UNTIL THEY'RE READY TO PUBLISH THEIR EXPOSÉ.
BUT WHY WON'T HE TELL YOU THE MAN'S NAME?

AH! THEY'VE GONE INSIDE! I'LL GIVE 'EM A SEC TO GET SETTLED--!

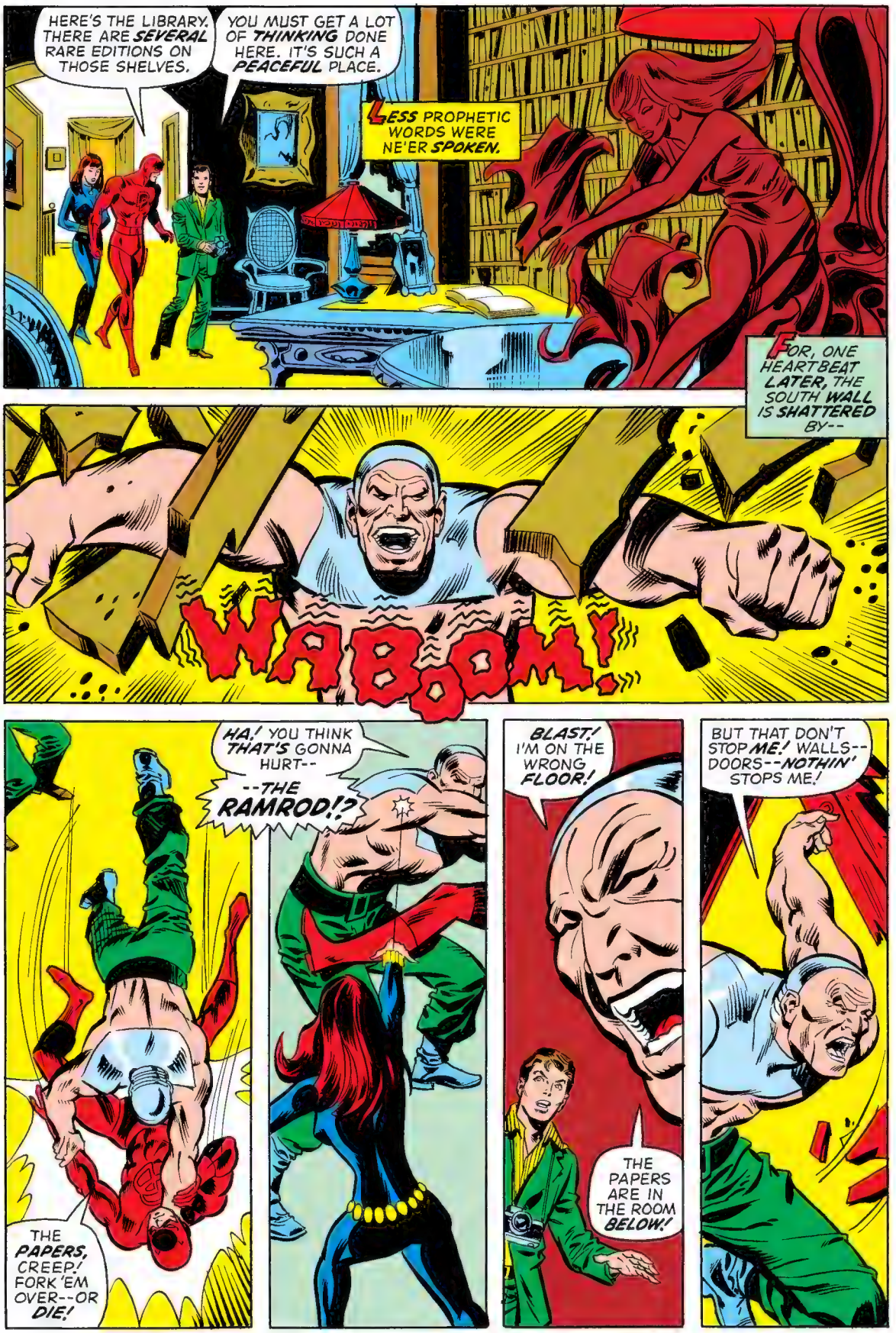
HE CAN'T JUST YET--FOR LEGAL REASONS.
BUT I KNOW THESE PEOPLE--AND I TRUST THEM. OKAY?
BE RIGHT BACK--I WANT TO LOCK THESE AWAY.


BLAST! I'M CURIOUS TOO--!
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES I'D GLADLY EXCHANGE MY RADAR SENSE FOR X-RAY VISION.

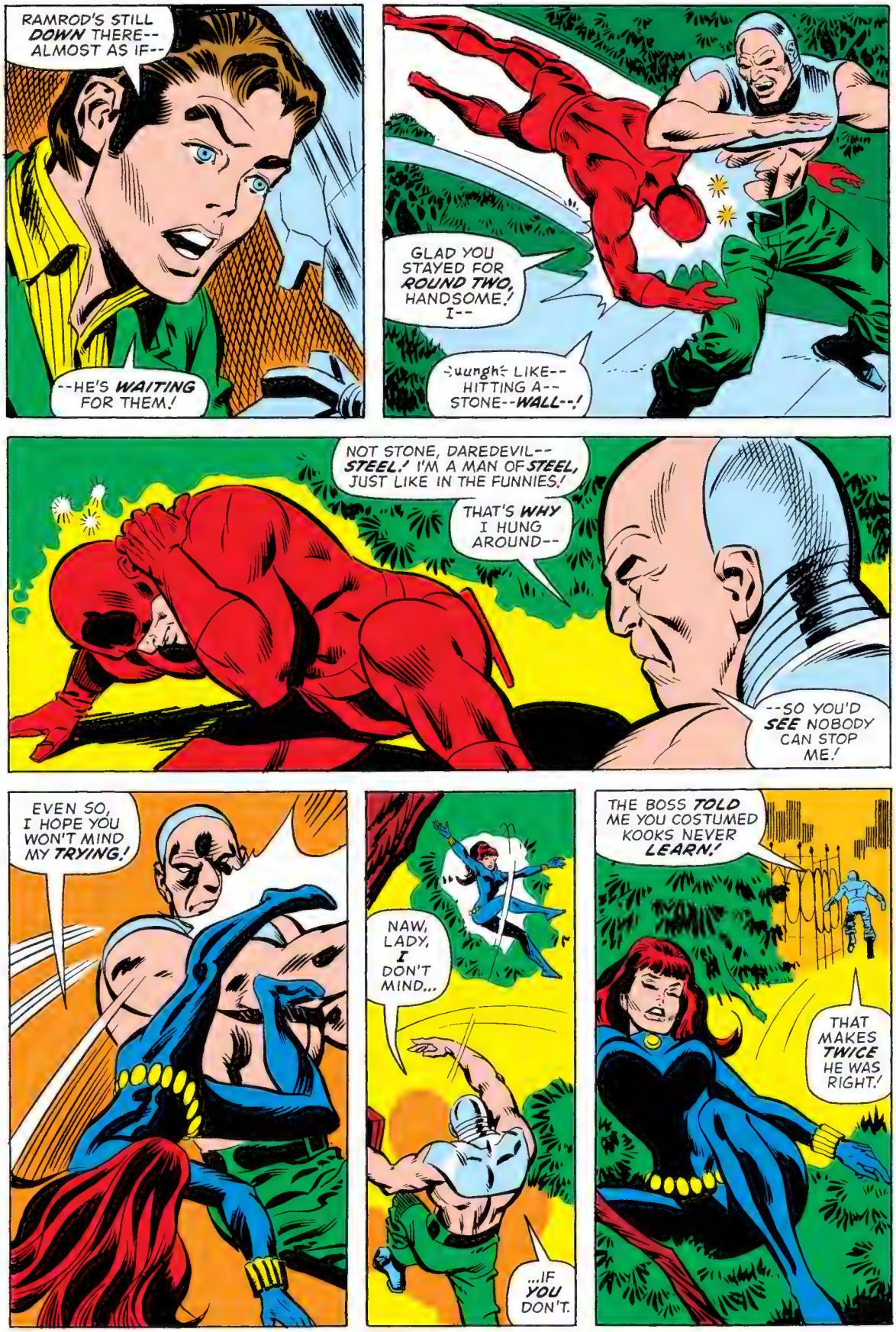
OKAY, LOVEBIRDS--TIME'S UP! READY OR NOT, COMPANY'S COMING!
HMMM...EITHER I'M LOSING MY CAREFULLY CULTIVATED SENSE OF HUMOR--
--OR THE JOKES JUST AREN'T AS FUNNY SINCE GWENDY DIED.
'COURSE, BEING AROUND HERE DOESN'T EXACTLY HELP MATTERS:
I ENVY DD TOO MUCH. TALK ABOUT THE HERO WHO HAS EVERYTHING--!
NO MONEY WORRIES--NO HASSLES WITH HIS ROOMMATE--!
AND MOST OF ALL--
--A WOMAN WHO CAN SHARE HIS KIND OF LIFE.
AW, PARKER, COME OFF IT!
THE SELF-PITY ROUTINE WENT OUT WITH D.A. HAIRCUTS!
BESIDES--JAMESON SENT YOU OUT HERE TO INTERVIEW DD--NOT SPEW SOAPSUDS ALL OVER HIS CARPET.*
*WHICH YOU'D HAVE KNOWN, HAD YOU READ MARVEL TEAM-UP #12. --ROY.
ERGO--EXIT ONE WALL-CRAWLER--
--AND ENTER CRUSADING JOURNALIST PETER PARKER.
I WONDER WHAT JOLLY OL' JONAH WOULD SAY--
--IF HE KNEW HE'D SENT SPIDEY TO INTERVIEW DAREDEVIL!


NOW THAT IS FUNN--/-UH-OH-EH, HI THERE!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' SNOOPIN'--? OH--A CAMERA!
ANOTHER CRUMMY TOURIST.
CRUMMY, MAYBE--BUT NO TOURIST.
I'M THE OTHER CLICHÉ--A NOSY REPORTER.
DON'T GIMME THAT--YOU'RE JUST A KID!
A KID WITH A PRESS CARD--NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE.
AN' I GUESS YA WANNA TALK TO 'TASHA--AS USUAL.
YOU OUGHTTA WRITE ABOUT ME! NO FLASHY COSTUME--NO CORNY NAME--
--JUST RAW GUTS AN' HUMAN DRAMA!
SOUNDS GOOD, PAL--BUT RIGHT NOW MY ASSIGNMENT'S DD AND THE WIDOW.
KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THEM?
YEAH--JUST GO RAP ON THE FRONT DOOR.
BUT I STILL THINK YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE.
I COULD TELL YOU SOME STORIES....!
I'LL BET HE COULD. IN FACT, I--
WAIT--WHAT'S THAT ODD SENSATION?
WEIRD... IT'S LIKE MY SPIDER-SENSE WANTS TO TINGLE--BUT WON'T COMMIT ITSELF!
BUT WHAT DANGER COULD THERE BE HERE?
YES...MAY I HELP YOU?
IF YOU'RE THE BLACK WIDOW YOU CAN. I'M PETER PARKER--
--AN' I SAW DAREDEVIL COME SWINGIN' THIS WAY!

ALL LOCKED AWAY--SAFE AND COZY.
OH! WHO'S OU-ER, YOUR GUEST?
I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO FIND OUT.
AND WHEN PETE HAS EXPLAINED--
NO, NO TROUBLE AT ALL. I'M GETTING USED TO THIS SORT OF THING.*
*SEE DD/BW#100. --R.
LET'S GO UP TO THE LIBRARY. WE'LL BE MORE COMFORT-ABLE THERE.
IN THIS PLACE IT'S PROBABLY COMFORTABLE UNDER THE SOFA!
THAT "CAGE LIFT" IS UNREAL. IS ALL THIS YOURS?
ONLY FOR A FEW MONTHS. NATASHA RENTED IT--
--WITH THE LAST OF HER INHERITANCE.
SUDDENLY--!
YIPES! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING LIKE MAD! BUT--WHY?
SOMETHING WRONG, MR. PARKER?
HUH--? OH, NO--NO, JUST A TWINGE FROM MY ULCER.


HERE'S THE LIBRARY. THERE ARE SEVERAL RARE EDITIONS ON THOSE SHELVES.
YOU MUST GET A LOT OF THINKING DONE HERE. IT'S SUCH A PEACEFUL PLACE.
LESS PROPHETIC WORDS WERE NE'ER SPOKEN.
FOR, ONE HEARTBEAT LATER, THE SOUTH WALL IS SHATTERED BY--
WABOOM!
HA! YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA HURT--
--THE RAMROD!?
THE PAPERS, CREEP! FORK 'EM OVER--OR DIE!
BLAST! I'M ON THE WRONG FLOOR!
THE PAPERS ARE IN THE ROOM BELOW!
BUT THAT DON'T STOP ME! WALLS--DOORS--NOTHIN' STOPS ME!

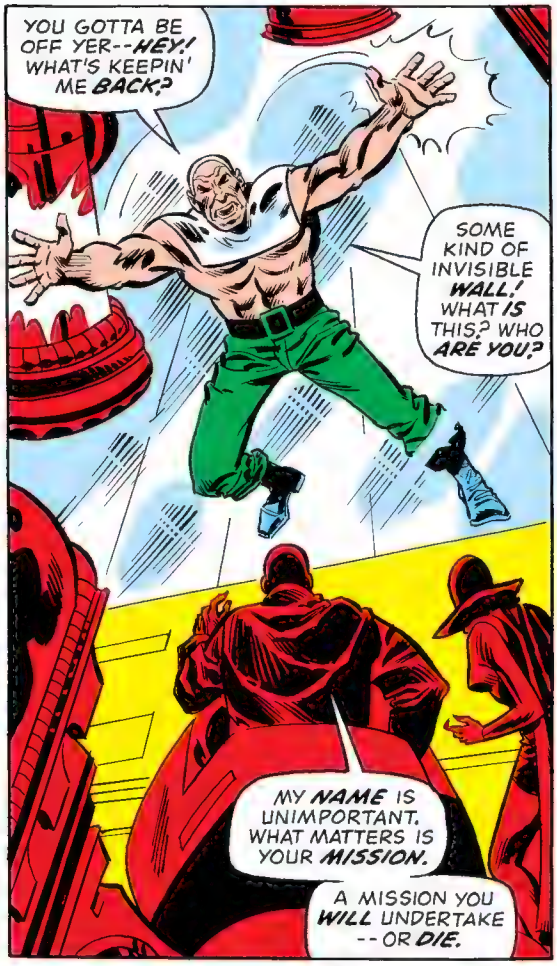
SECONDS LATER--ONE FLOOR BELOW--"WABOOM" AGAIN!
DON'T SEE 'EM--HE MUSTA HIDDEN 'EM!
YEAH--IN A SAFE--!
BEHIND THIS HERE PICTURE!
YEP! THERE THEY ARE! THE BOSS WAS RIGHT AS RAIN--!
A JOB LIKE THIS IS A CINCH--FOR A MAN WHO CAN GO ANYWHERE!
INCREDIBLE! IN TWO MINUTES, HE'S WRECKED HALF THE HOUSE!
AND HE SEEMED TO KNOW WHERE THOSE PAPERS WERE!
WE'VE GOT TO RETRIEVE THEM! HURRY!

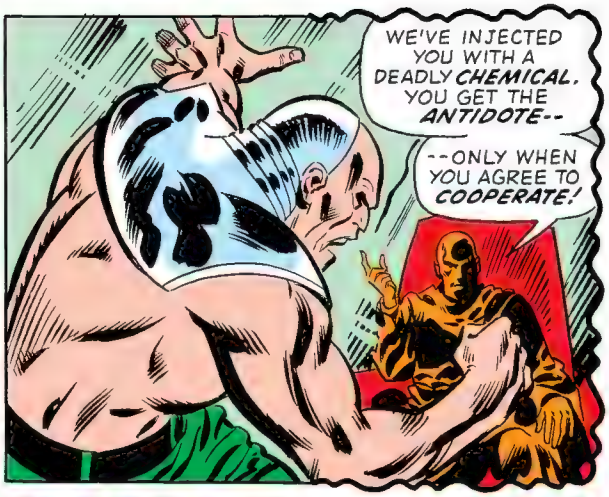

RAMROD'S STILL DOWN THERE-- ALMOST AS IF--
--HE'S WAITING FOR THEM!
GLAD YOU STAYED FOR ROUND TWO, HANDSOME! I--
Uuungh! LIKE-- HITTING A-- STONE--WALL--!
NOT STONE, DAREDEVIL-- STEEL! I'M A MAN OF STEEL, JUST LIKE IN THE FUNNIES!
THAT'S WHY I HUNG AROUND--
--SO YOU'D SEE NOBODY CAN STOP ME!
EVEN SO, I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND MY TRYING!
NAW, LADY, I DON'T MIND...
...IF YOU DON'T.
THE BOSS TOLD ME YOU COSTUMED KOOKS NEVER LEARN!
THAT MAKES TWICE HE WAS RIGHT!

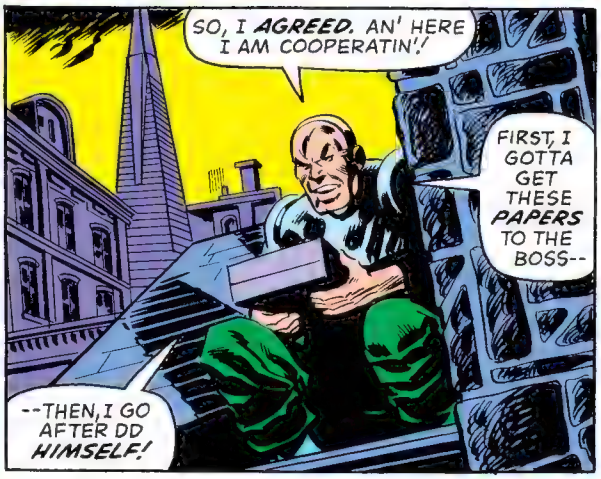
SO MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN--
--IF YOU CAN CATCH ME! SO LONG... "HEROES"!
OH, WELL... IT MADE GOOD PICTURES, ANYWAY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MS. ROMANOFF?
JUST SHAKEN-- I'LL BE FINE.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D HE GO?
I--I'M NOT SURE. I DIDN'T SEE.
WELL, I DID. HE LEAPED OVER YOUR SIX-FOOT FENCE.
NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
YOU STAY HERE--AND WE GO AFTER HIM LIKE GOOD LITTLE SUPERHEROES.
AND PRAY WE CAN BEAT HIM BEFORE HE TEARS US LIMB FROM LIMB.
IT'S NO GOOD... THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM ALONE.
SO I'LL JUST SEE TO IT THEY DON'T HAVE TO.
BESIDES--IF I DON'T GET THAT INTERVIEW, JAMESON WILL MAKE ME PAY FOR THIS TRIP!
SO HANG ON, SAN FRAN-- HERE COMES SPIDEY!

AND, MILES AWAY, THE MASSIVE FORM OF THE RAMROD ROCKS WITH LAUGHTER--!
HA! LOOK AT 'EM GO!
THEY NEVER FIGURED I COULD JUMP THIS HIGH!
AND TA THINK A WEEK AGO I WAS NOTHIN'!
A FOREMAN ON A LOUSY OFF-SHORE OIL RIG!
"BUT EVEN THERE, I WAS THE RAMROD!
"I GAVE THE ORDERS-- PUSHED THEM GUYS HARDER'N ANY OTHER MAN WOULD'A DARED--
"TILL MY LITTLE ACCIDENT.
RAMROD! LOOK OUT!
"AN OIL DRUM-- FULL--GOT LOOSE ON ME.
"ROLLED OVER ME ONCE-- THEN RIGHT BACK AGAIN!
HOW IS HE, JOE?
ALIVE-- THAT'S ABOUT IT.
"YEAH, I WAS WRECKED, ALL RIGHT--WORSE THAN I KNEW.
"BUT ONCE I GOT TO A HOSPITAL, I FOUND OUT:
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY-- CRUSHED! POOR MAN--
HE'LL LIVE, BUT HE'LL NEVER MOVE AGAIN.
"AN' I PASSED OUT TO THEM SWEET WORDS!

"WHEN I CAME TO, I WASN'T IN NO HOSPITAL.
"PLACE LOOKED MORE LIKE A BLASTED SPACESHIP!
"THEN I SAW MYSELF! AN' FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I WAS SCARED!
I DUNNO HOW I GOT HERE-- AN' I DON'T CARE!
I'M BUSTIN' OUT-- NOW!
"BUT I RIPPED THE STEEL HANDLE RIGHT OFF THE DOOR!
ENOUGH, RAMROD. TURN AND FACE US.
WE HAVE MADE YOU AS YOU ARE.
A MAN OF FLESH AND BLOOD--AND METAL.
YOUR BONES HAVE BEEN REPLACED-- WITH BANDS OF STEEL.
YOU MADE ME A ROBOT?!
NOT A ROBOT-- A CYBORG-- ONLY PART MACHINE.
ONLY YOUR SKELETAL STRUCTURE HAS BEEN ALTERED. ALL ELSE IS HUMAN.
YOUR STRENGTH HAS BEEN INCREASED TENFOLD.
AND YOU MOVE AND THINK AS BEFORE.
YEAH-- IT AINT BAD.
BUT NOBODY DOES SOMETHIN' FOR NOTHIN'!
WHADDA YOU GET OUTTA THIS?
WHY--I MERELY ASK THAT YOU KILL A MAN--DAREDEVIL!
WHA--?! MURDER?

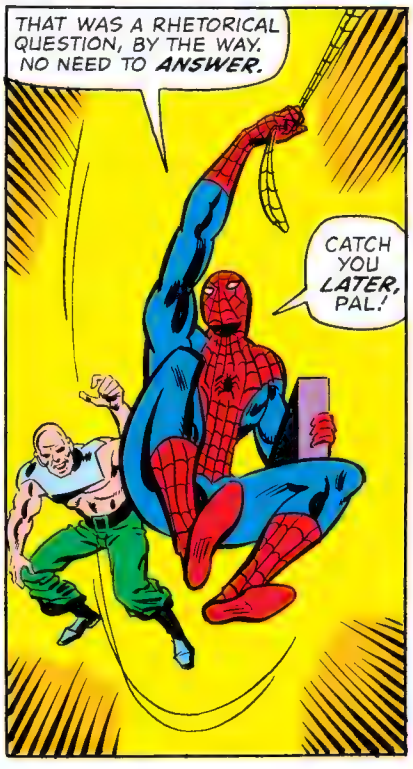

YOU GOTTA BE OFF YER--HEY! WHAT'S KEEPIN' ME BACK?
SOME KIND OF INVISIBLE WALL! WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS UNIMPORTANT. WHAT MATTERS IS YOUR MISSION.
A MISSION YOU WILL UNDERTAKE -- OR DIE.


WE'VE INJECTED YOU WITH A DEADLY CHEMICAL. YOU GET THE ANTIDOTE--
--ONLY WHEN YOU AGREE TO COOPERATE!

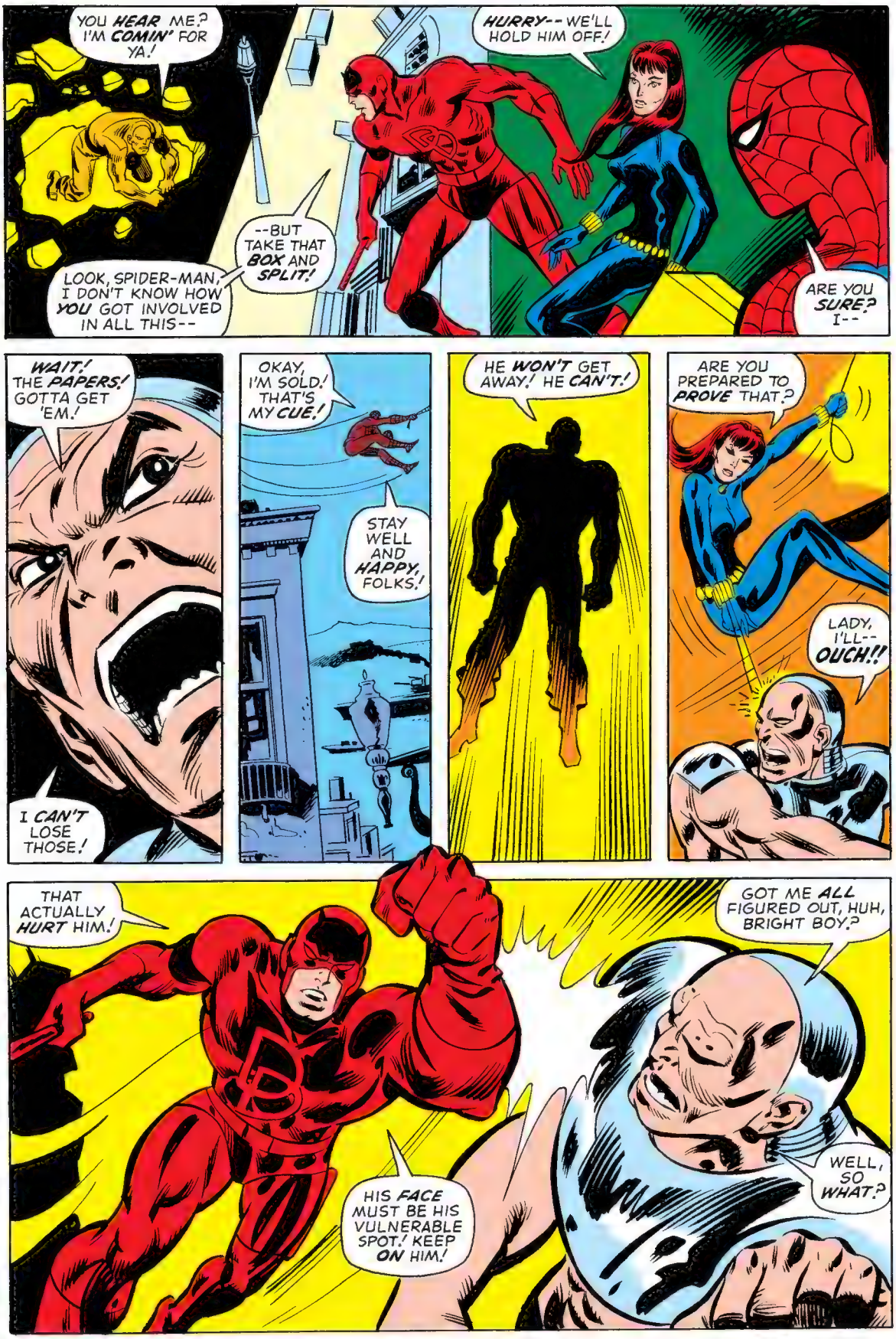

SO, I AGREED. AN' HERE I AM COOPERATIN'!
FIRST, I GOTTA GET THESE PAPERS TO THE BOSS--
--THEN, I GO AFTER DD HIMSELF!

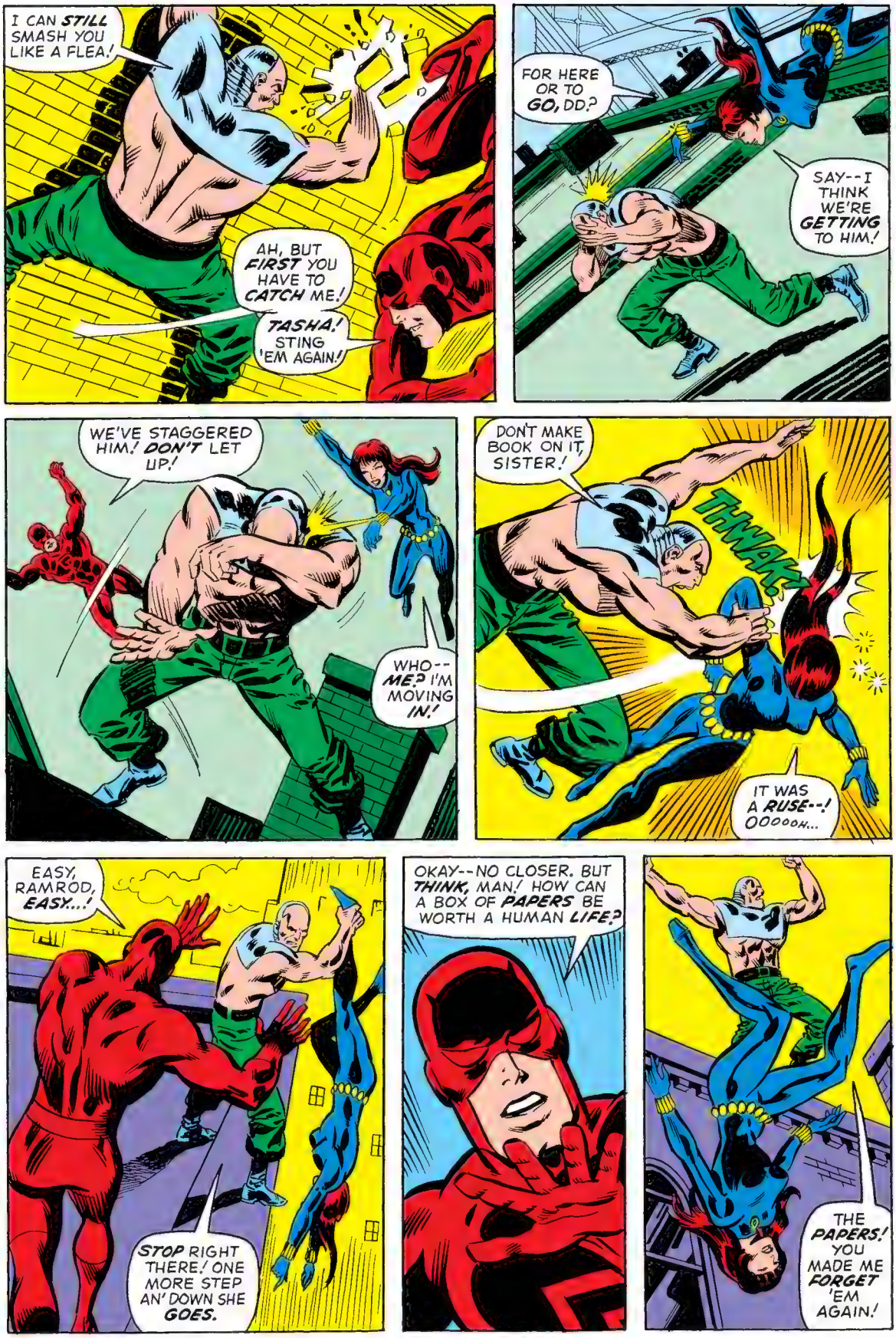
I DUNNO WHAT THESE ARE, BUT-- HUH--?!

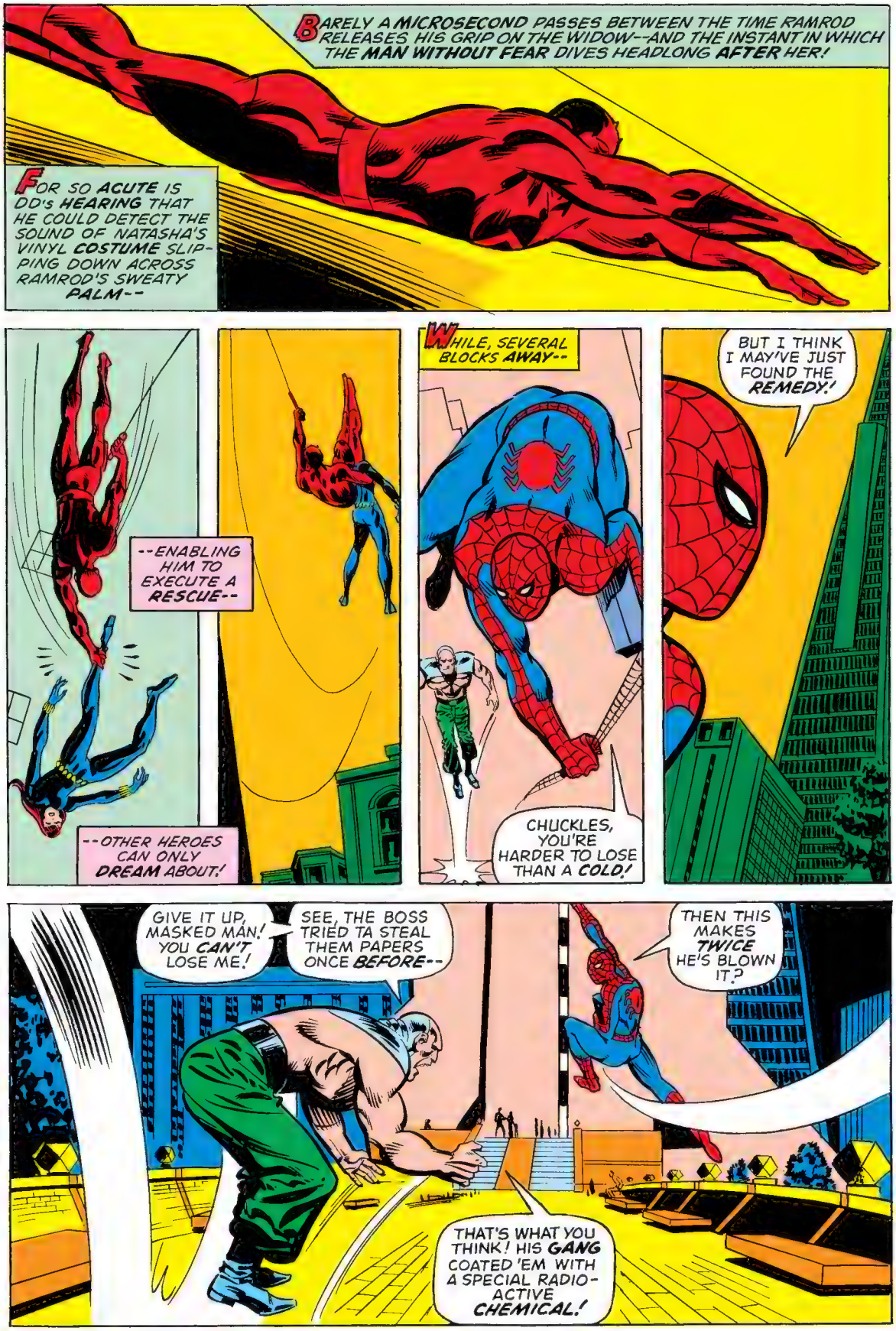
DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO YOURSELF THIS WAY, RAMMY?

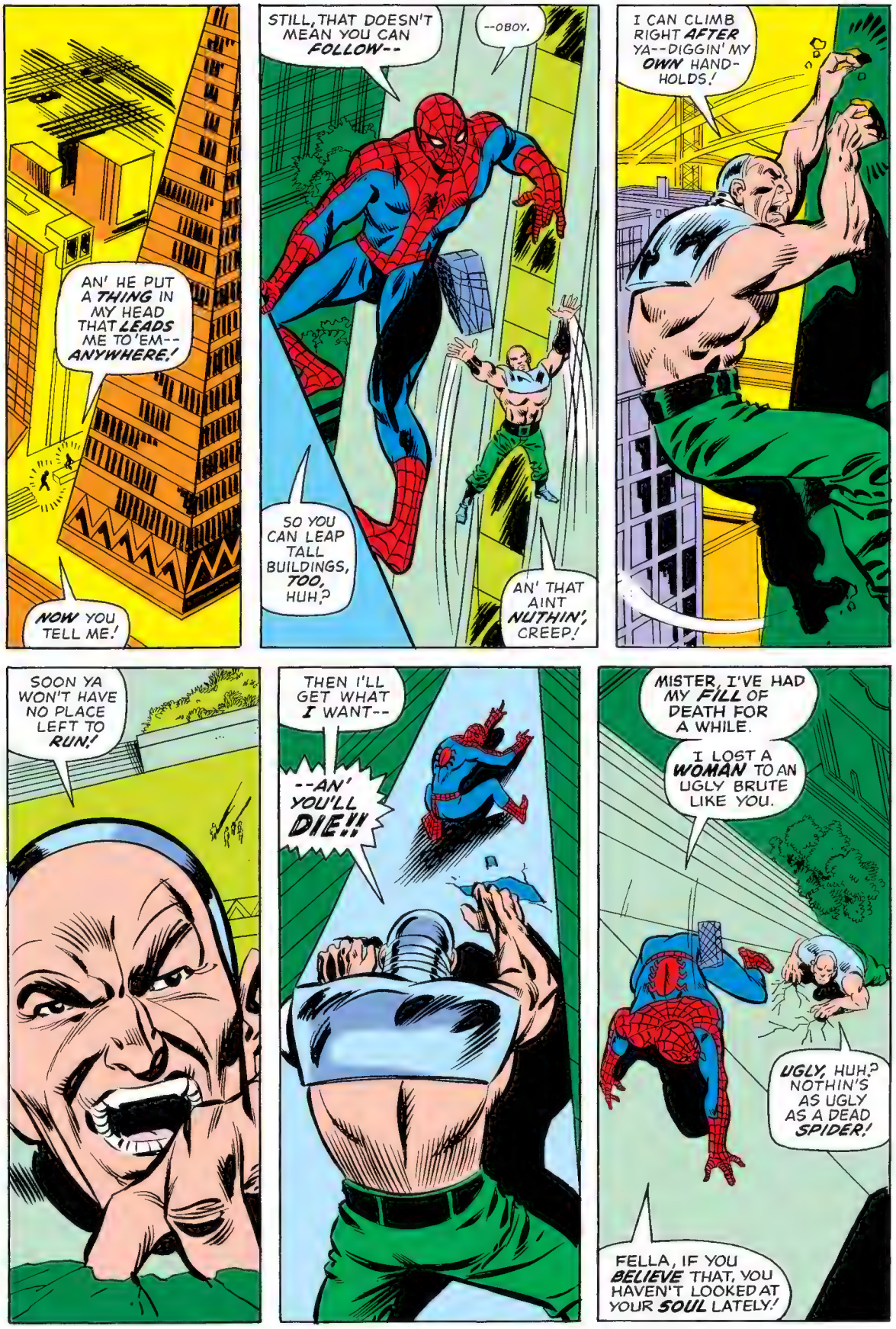

THAT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION, BY THE WAY. NO NEED TO ANSWER.
CATCH YOU LATER, PAL!

YOU--YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN!
REALLY? DOES IT SHOW THAT BADLY?
THINK YOU'RE FUNNY, HUH? WELL, WE'LL SEE, BUSTER!
I CAN GO ANYWHERE YOU CAN-- LIKE THIS!
YES, BUT YOU'RE CLUMSY-- I'M NOT!
BUT I CAN CRUSH YOU --AN YOU CAN'T!
THAT'S TERRIBLE SYNTAX, RAMROD!
YOU!!
THOOM
OKAY, YOU CLOWNS, THAT DOES IT!
BOSS OR NO BOSS--
I'M GONNA KILL ALL OF YA!!


YOU HEAR ME? I'M COMIN' FOR YA!
HURRY-- WE'LL HOLD HIM OFF!
--BUT TAKE THAT BOX AND SPLIT!
LOOK, SPIDER-MAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED IN ALL THIS--
ARE YOU SURE? I--
WAIT! THE PAPERS! GOTTA GET 'EM!
I CAN'T LOSE THOSE!
OKAY, I'M SOLD! THAT'S MY CUE!
STAY WELL AND HAPPY, FOLKS!
HE WON'T GET AWAY! HE CAN'T!
ARE YOU PREPARED TO PROVE THAT?
LADY, I'LL-- OUCH!!
THAT ACTUALLY HURT HIM!
HIS FACE MUST BE HIS VULNERABLE SPOT! KEEP ON HIM!
GOT ME ALL FIGURED OUT, HUH, BRIGHT BOY?
WELL, SO WHAT?

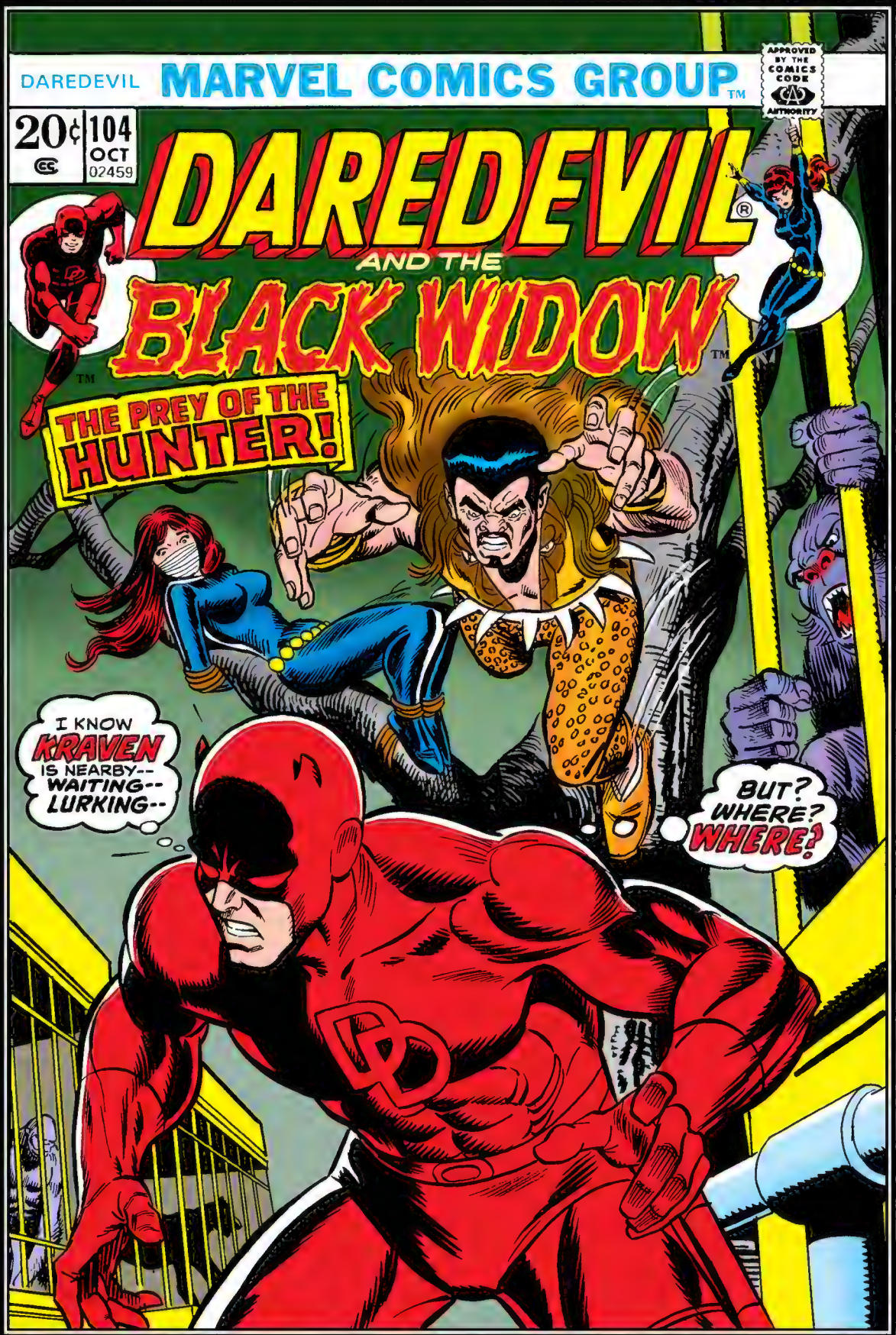

I CAN STILL SMASH YOU LIKE A FLEA!
AH, BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO CATCH ME!
TASHA! STING 'EM AGAIN!
FOR HERE OR TO GO, DD?
SAY--I THINK WE'RE GETTING TO HIM!
WE'VE STAGGERED HIM! DON'T LET UP!
WHO--ME? I'M MOVING IN!
DON'T MAKE BOOK ON IT, SISTER!
THWAK
IT WAS A RUSE--! OOOOOH...
EASY, RAMROD, EASY...!
STOP RIGHT THERE! ONE MORE STEP AN' DOWN SHE GOES.
OKAY--NO CLOSER. BUT THINK, MAN! HOW CAN A BOX OF PAPERS BE WORTH A HUMAN LIFE?
THE PAPERS! YOU MADE ME FORGET 'EM AGAIN!


BARELY A MICROSECOND PASSES BETWEEN THE TIME RAMROD RELEASES HIS GRIP ON THE WIDOW--AND THE INSTANT IN WHICH THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR DIVES HEADLONG AFTER HER!
FOR SO ACUTE IS DD's HEARING THAT HE COULD DETECT THE SOUND OF NATASHA'S VINYL COSTUME SLIPPING DOWN ACROSS RAMROD'S SWEATY PALM--
--ENABLING HIM TO EXECUTE A RESCUE--
--OTHER HEROES CAN ONLY DREAM ABOUT!
WHILE, SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY--
CHUCKLES, YOU'RE HARDER TO LOSE THAN A COLD!
BUT I THINK I MAY'VE JUST FOUND THE REMEDY!
GIVE IT UP, MASKED MAN! YOU CAN'T LOSE ME!
SEE, THE BOSS TRIED TA STEAL THEM PAPERS ONCE BEFORE--
THEN THIS MAKES TWICE HE'S BLOWN IT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! HIS GANG COATED 'EM WITH A SPECIAL RADIOACTIVE CHEMICAL!


AN' HE PUT A THING IN MY HEAD THAT LEADS ME TO 'EM--ANYWHERE!
NOW YOU TELL ME!
STILL, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN FOLLOW--
--OBOY.
SO YOU CAN LEAP TALL BUILDINGS, TOO, HUH?
AN' THAT AINT NUTHIN', CREEP!
I CAN CLIMB RIGHT AFTER YA--DIGGIN' MY OWN HAND-HOLDS!
SOON YA WON'T HAVE NO PLACE LEFT TO RUN!
THEN I'LL GET WHAT I WANT--
--AN' YOU'LL DIE!!
MISTER, I'VE HAD MY FILL OF DEATH FOR A WHILE.
I LOST A WOMAN TO AN UGLY BRUTE LIKE YOU.
UGLY, HUH? NOTHIN'S AS UGLY AS A DEAD SPIDER!
FELLA, IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED AT YOUR SOUL LATELY!

AWRIGHT, WALL-CRAWLER--THIS IS IT! IF THESE FINGERS CAN DIG INTA CONCRETE--
--THINK WHAT THEY'LL DO TA YOUR FACE!
SORRY--MY IMAGINATION ISN'T THAT MORBID.
:UNNGH:
AND BESIDES, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR AN END TO HOSTILITIES.
NOT A TRUCE, PERISH FORBID--!
--BUT I'M GONNA PUT YOU AWAY, RAMMY!
HAW! YOU--ALONE--? NOT A CHANCE!
AH, BUT HE'S NOT ALONE. HE HAS FRIENDS--IN HIGH PLACES!
DAREDEVIL!!
AND THE BLACK WIDOW, RAMROD!
THE DAME--ALIVE!! IT CAN'T BE!
I--I FAILED! THE BOSS'LL KILL ME!
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET, LADY?
AS SOON AS HE SAW YOU HE CAME UNGLUED!

SHAKEN BY THE WIDOW'S UNEXPECTED REAPPEARANCE, THE RAMROD HESITATES--LOSES HIS GRIP--!
AND THE RESULT--FOR HIM, AT ANY RATE--IS DISASTER--
AW, NO! NO!! NOOOOOOOO
--ALL THE WAY TO THE GROUND.
I BELIEVE THESE ARE YOURS, DD?
THAT FALL OUGHTTA KEEP RAMMY OUT OF THE PICTURE TILL THE COPS MAKE THE SCENE!
WHUNK!
AND TAKE MY ADVICE! GET YOURSELF SOME EASIER BADDIES TO TACKLE--
--LIKE DR. DOOM!
HUH--? SURE... THANKS, FELLA.
IT'S WEIRD--HE POPS UP OUT OF NOWHERE--HELPS US--
--THEN JUST SWINGS OFF INTO THE SUNSET!
MAYBE HE'LL EXPLAIN SOME OTHER TI--OH! LOOK!
HEY, YOU TWO!
NOW CAN WE DO THAT INTER-VIEW?
I MEAN, I KNOW I'M IMPOSING--BUT YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE--
--WHAT I'VE GONE THRU FOR THIS....!
NEXT: THE INCOMPARABLE MENACE OF THE MAN CALLED--KRAVEN THE HUNTER!


DAREDEVIL
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DAREDEVIL®
AND THE
BLACK WIDOW™
THE PREY OF THE HUNTER!
I KNOW KRAVEN IS NEARBY-- WAITING-- LURKING--
BUT? WHERE? WHERE?

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!** TM

STEVE GERBER WRITER · DON HECK ARTIST · SAL TRAPANI INKER · C. JETTER — P. GOLDBERG — LETTERER COLORIST · ROY THOMAS EDITOR

PREY OF THE HUNTER!
A PRIVATE GYM IN A NORTH SHORE MANSION IN SAN FRANCISCO...
HER NAME IS NATASHA ROMANOFF.. THE BLACK WIDOW. SHE BECAME A SPY, NOT A DANCER OR GYMNAST.
DID YOU KNOW...I ONCE TRIED OUT FOR THE BOLSHOI...
...AND THE RUSSIAN OLYMPICS GYMNAST TEAM, TOO..?
...AND I MADE BOTH?
WE SHOULD WORK OUT LIKE THIS MORE OFTEN. I'M SO STIFF.

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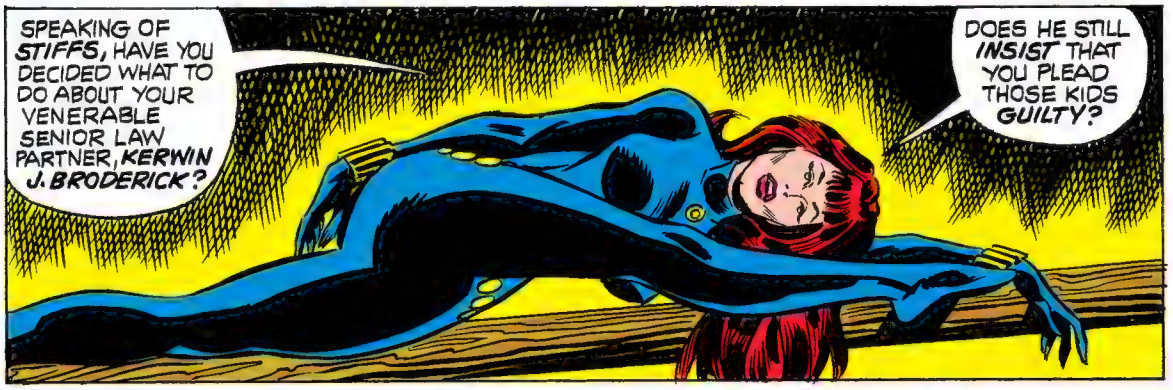
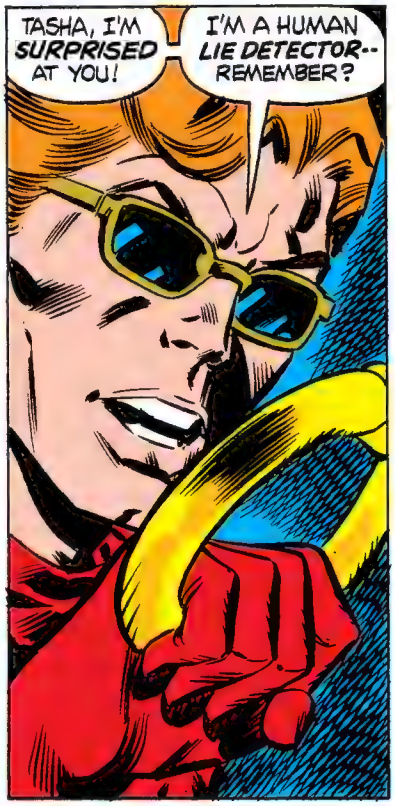
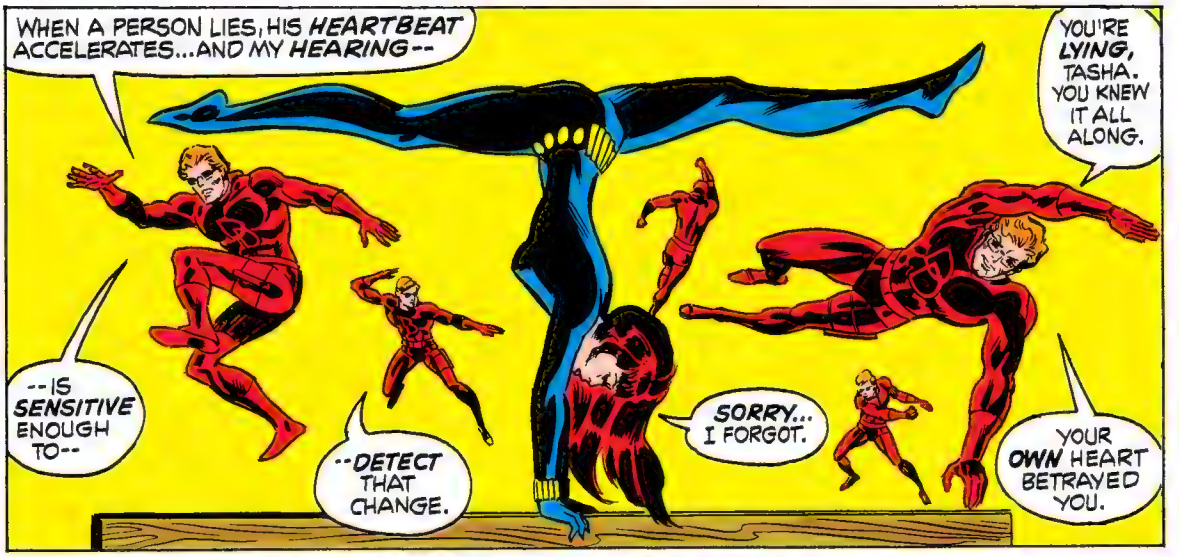
STIFF? ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU MAKE OLGA KORBUT LOOK LIKE SHE'S STARCHED!
HIS NAME IS MATTHEW MURDOCK. HE BECAME BLIND ...THEN HE BECAME A LAWYER....
...THEN, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR: DAREDEVIL!
IF YOU GET ANY MORE LIMBER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND UP!


SPEAKING OF STIFFS, HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT TO DO ABOUT YOUR VENERABLE SENIOR LAW PARTNER, KERWIN J. BRODERICK?
DOES HE STILL INSIST THAT YOU PLEAD THOSE KIDS GUILTY?

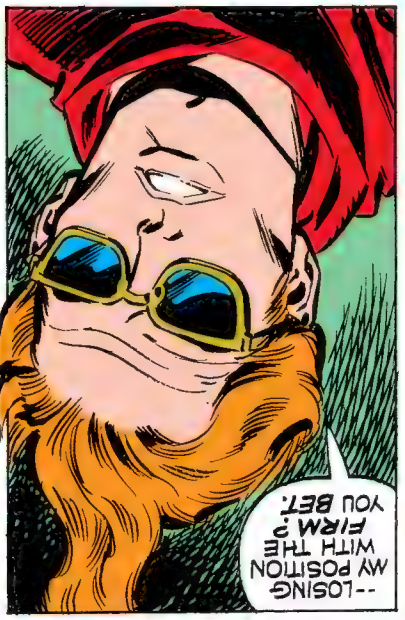
HE DOES--BUT I WON'T! I FINALLY HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO THEM--
I'M MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER --THEY'RE INNOCENT!

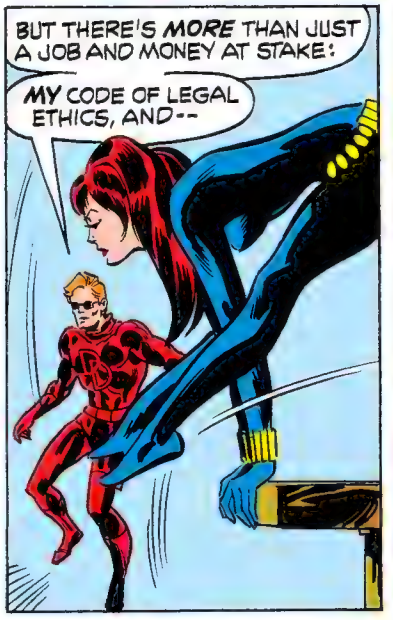
SO THEY SAY-- BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE THEY'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?
THEY DON'T EVEN REMEMBER ATTACKING THE RESEARCH CENTER.!*
*SEE DD/BW #97.--R.T.

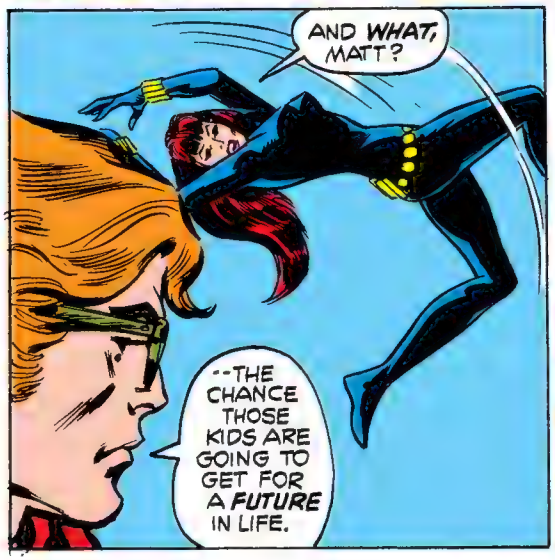

TASHA, I'M SURPRISED AT YOU!
I'M A HUMAN LIE DETECTOR-- REMEMBER?


WHEN A PERSON LIES, HIS HEARTBEAT ACCELERATES...AND MY HEARING--
--IS SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO--
--DETECT THAT CHANGE.
SORRY... I FORGOT.
YOU'RE LYING, TASHA. YOU KNEW IT ALL ALONG.
YOUR OWN HEART BETRAYED YOU.

TOUCHÉ. BUT, MATT... IF YOU DO CROSS BRODERICK, MIGHTN'T IT MEAN...?

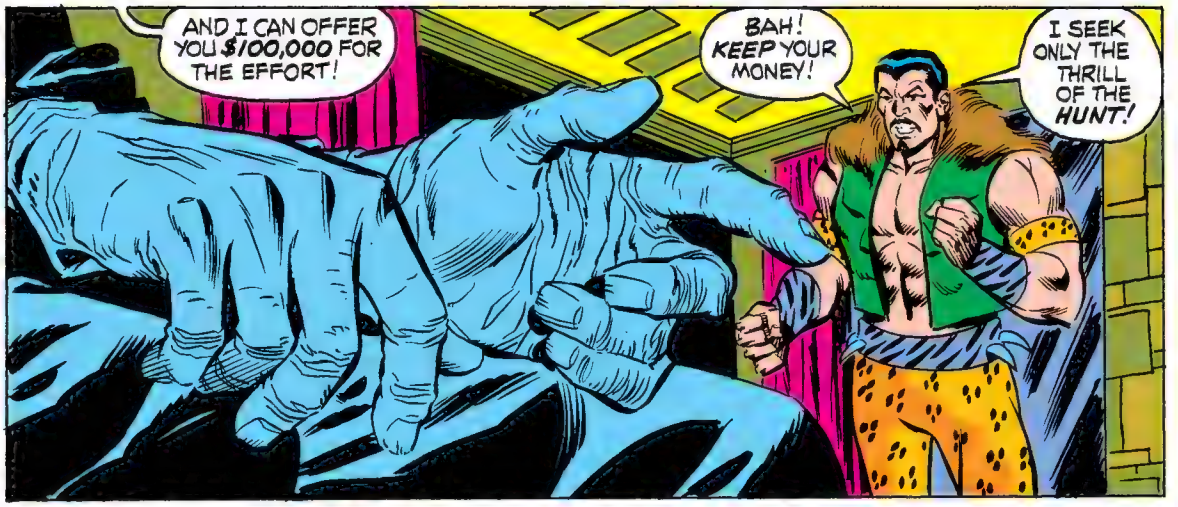

--LOSING MY POSITION WITH THE FIRM? YOU BET.


BUT THERE'S MORE THAN JUST A JOB AND MONEY AT STAKE:
MY CODE OF LEGAL ETHICS, AND--


AND WHAT, MATT?
--THE CHANCE THOSE KIDS ARE GOING TO GET FOR A FUTURE IN LIFE.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO PLEAD IT YOUR WAY?
I HAVE TO... IF I WANT TO LIVE WITH MYSELF.

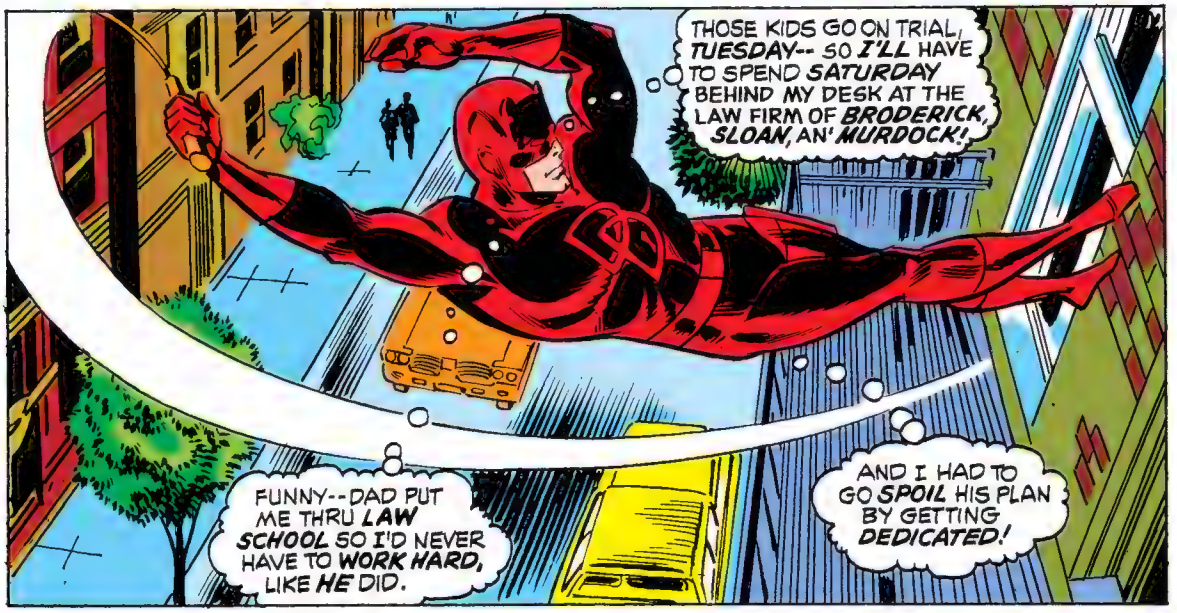
I KNOW HOW CORNY IT SOUNDS--BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU.
YOU MAY NOT BE--IF MY ETHICS COST US THIS HOUSE.
AFTER ALL, OUR LEASE IS ALMOST UP--AND YOUR INHERITANCE--
--IS GONE. I KNOW.
MAIL'S IN, FOLKS.
MOSTLY BILLS--AS USUAL. AND THIS--
--FOR YOU, MATT.
IT'S AN ENGRAVED INVITATION TO A COCKTAIL PARTY--
--NEXT FRIDAY AT KERWIN J. BRODERICK'S!
"P.S.: ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU.--K.J.B."
ON THAT CRYPTIC NOTE, OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO AN ULTRA-MODERN CLIFFSIDE ESTATE MILES AWAY--
--THE HOME OF--"THE MAN"--
YOU ANSWERED MY SUMMONS WITH ADMIRABLE HASTE, MY FRIEND.
NO "MAN" MAY SUMMON ME! I GO WHERE I CHOOSE--WHEN I CHOOSE.
SUCH IS THE WAY OF--
--THE FORMER MASTER OF THE DARK MESSIAH--OF ANGAR, THE SCREAMER--AND THE RAMROD.*
*SEE DD/BW #97-98, 101 AND 103, RESPECTIVELY.--R.T.
--KRAVEN THE HUNTER!
VERY WELL.. YOU CAME FOR YOUR OWN REASONS.
THAT IS NOT MY CONCERN.
I AM INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU DO--NOT WHY.
"I WANT YOU TO DEFEAT DAREDEVIL FOR ME--KILL HIM IF NECESSARY--BUT AT THE LEAST, FINISH FOREVER HIS EFFECTIVENESS AS A LAWMAN!"

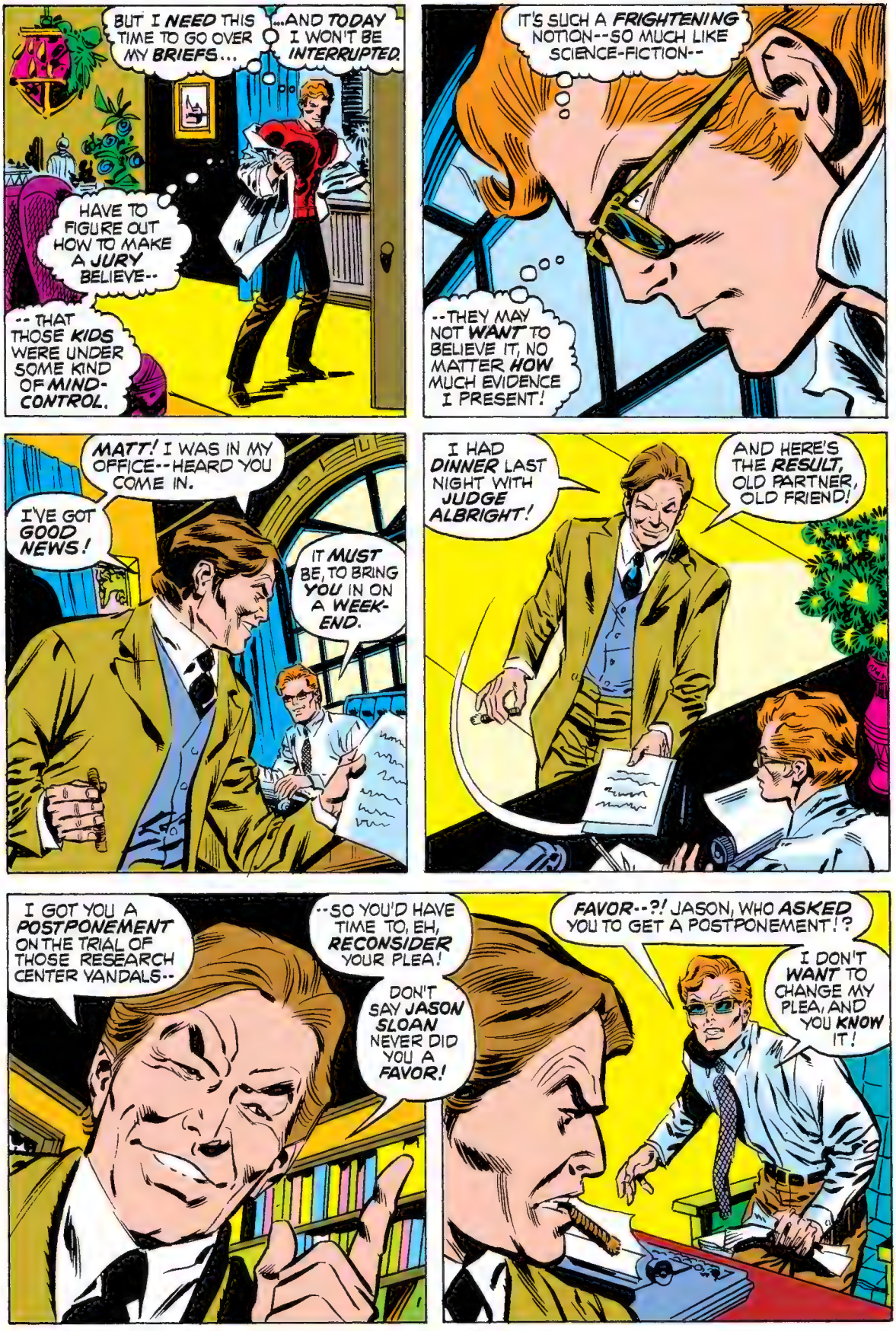

AND I CAN OFFER YOU $100,000 FOR THE EFFORT!
BAH! KEEP YOUR MONEY!
I SEEK ONLY THE THRILL OF THE HUNT!

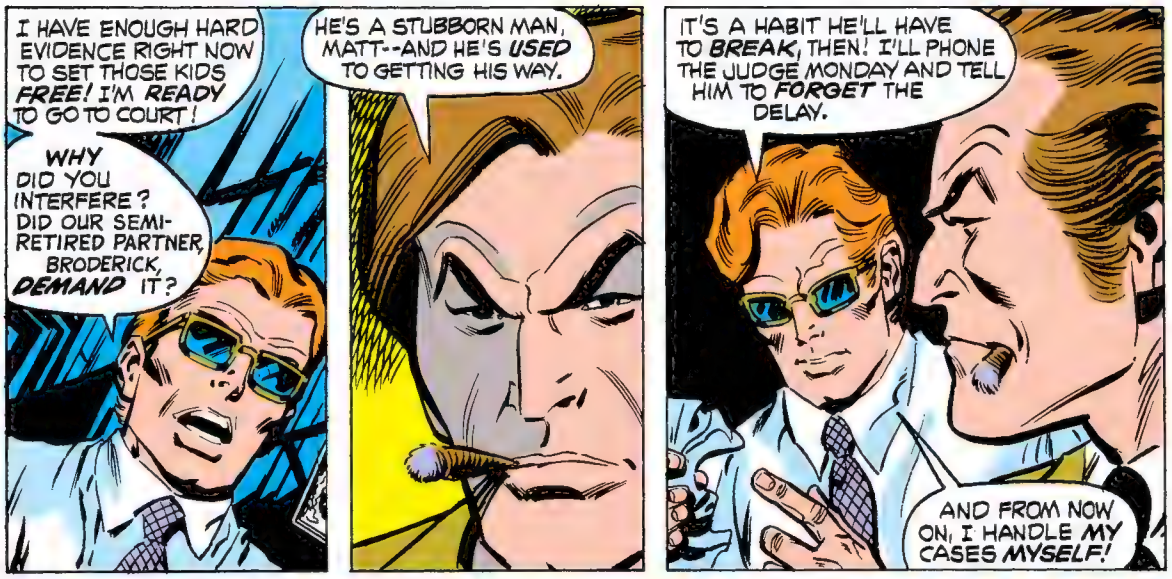
BUT I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSITION ...FOR OFTEN HAVE I WONDERED HOW I MIGHT FARE---
--AGAINST A PREY THAT KNOWS NO FEAR.

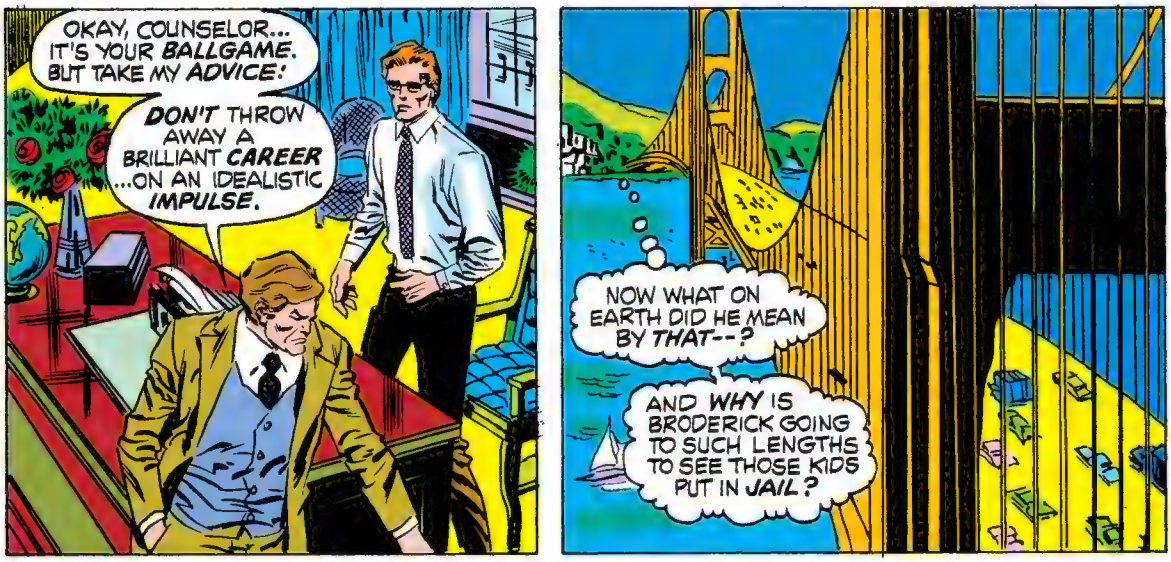
WHATEVER YOUR MOTIVES, OUR GOAL IS STILL A MUTUAL ONE:
THE END OF DARE-DEVIL!
OMINOUS ENOUGH FOR YA?

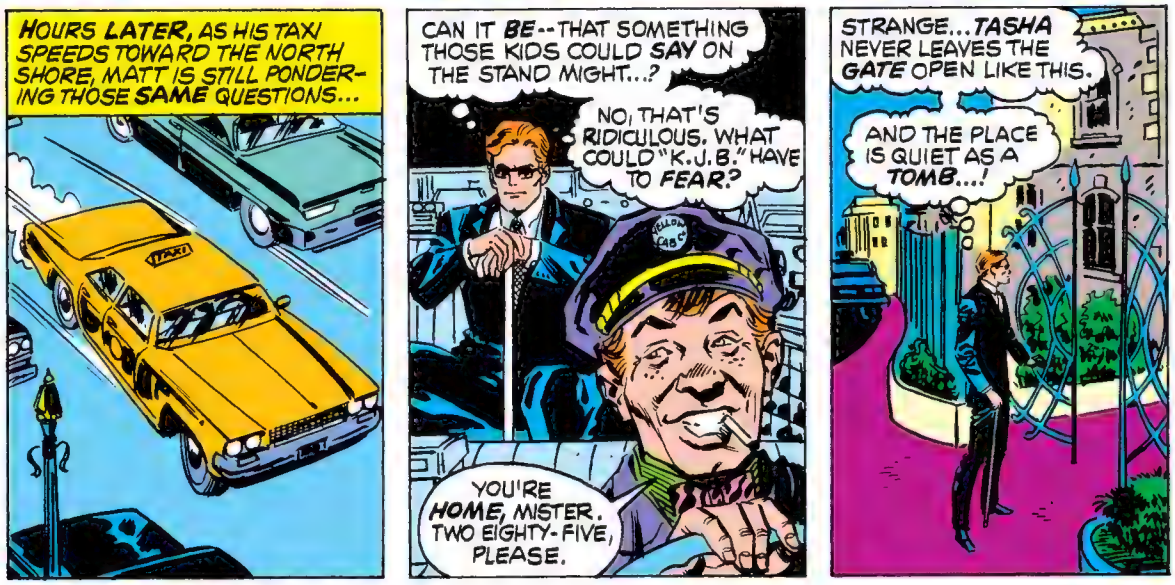
GOOD. BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO SWITCH SCENES AGAIN-- TO DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO--
--AND THE RED-GARBED HERO IN QUESTION.

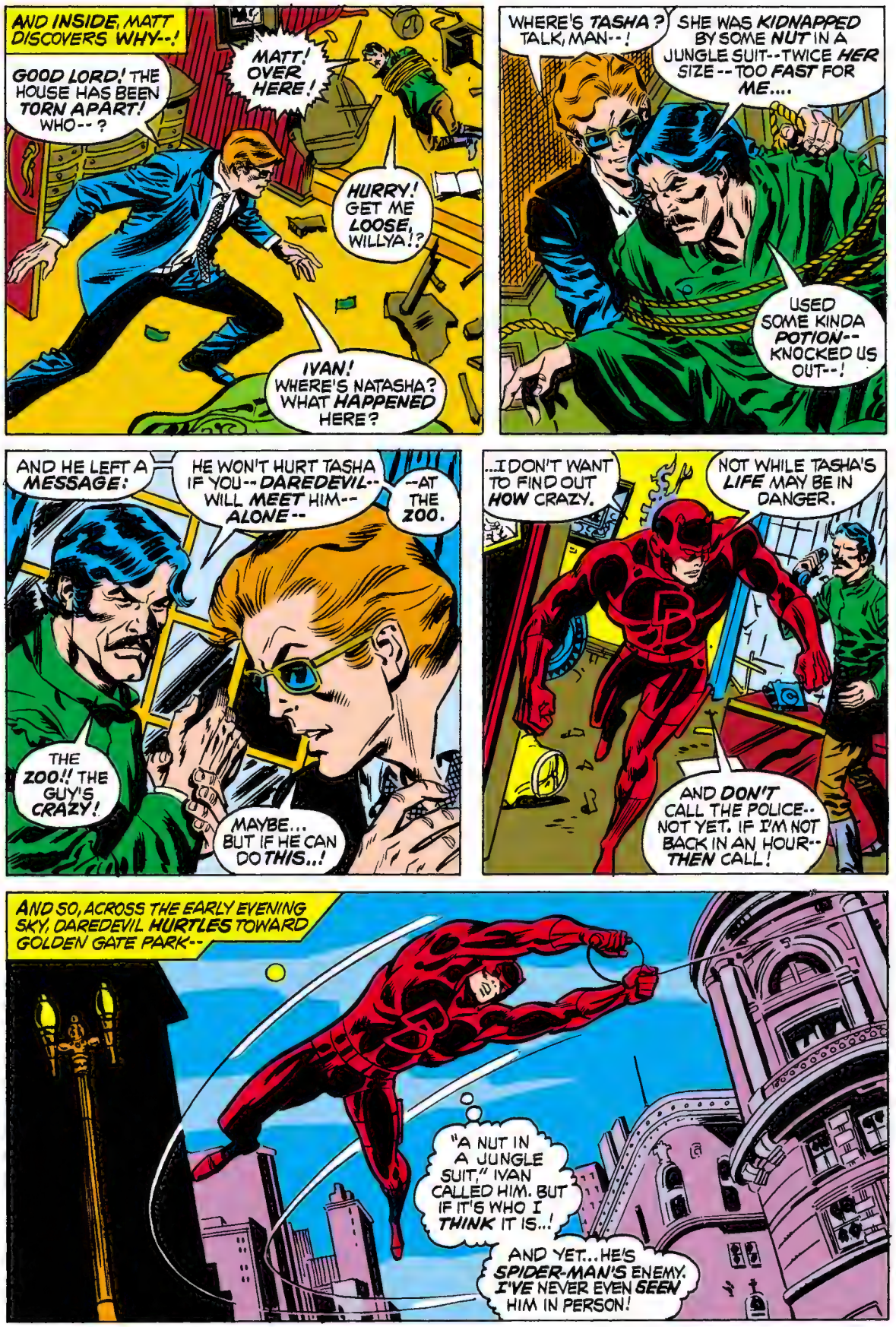

THOSE KIDS GO ON TRIAL, TUESDAY-- SO I'LL HAVE TO SPEND SATURDAY BEHIND MY DESK AT THE LAW FIRM OF BRODERICK, SLOAN, AN' MURDOCK!
FUNNY--DAD PUT ME THRU LAW SCHOOL SO I'D NEVER HAVE TO WORK HARD, LIKE HE DID.
AND I HAD TO GO SPOIL HIS PLAN BY GETTING DEDICATED!

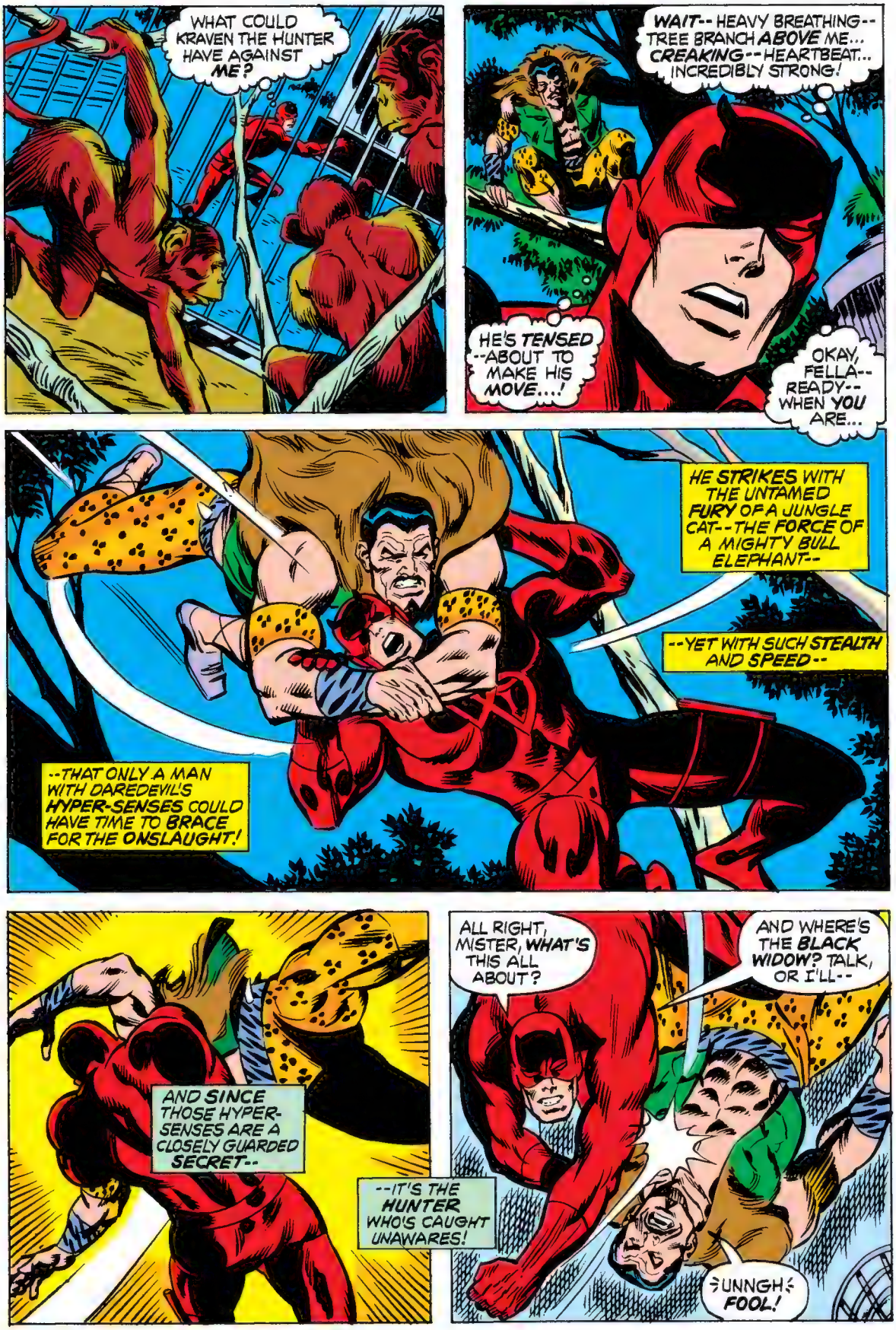

BUT I NEED THIS TIME TO GO OVER MY BRIEFS...
...AND TODAY I WON'T BE INTERRUPTED.
HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE A JURY BELIEVE--
-- THAT THOSE KIDS WERE UNDER SOME KIND OF MIND-CONTROL.
IT'S SUCH A FRIGHTENING NOTION--SO MUCH LIKE SCIENCE-FICTION--
--THEY MAY NOT WANT TO BELIEVE IT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH EVIDENCE I PRESENT!
MATT! I WAS IN MY OFFICE--HEARD YOU COME IN.
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS!
IT MUST BE, TO BRING YOU IN ON A WEEK-END.
I HAD DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH JUDGE ALBRIGHT!
AND HERE'S THE RESULT, OLD PARTNER, OLD FRIEND!
I GOT YOU A POSTPONEMENT ON THE TRIAL OF THOSE RESEARCH CENTER VANDALS--
--SO YOU'D HAVE TIME TO, EH, RECONSIDER YOUR PLEA!
DON'T SAY JASON SLOAN NEVER DID YOU A FAVOR!
FAVOR--?! JASON, WHO ASKED YOU TO GET A POSTPONEMENT!?
I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE MY PLEA, AND YOU KNOW IT!

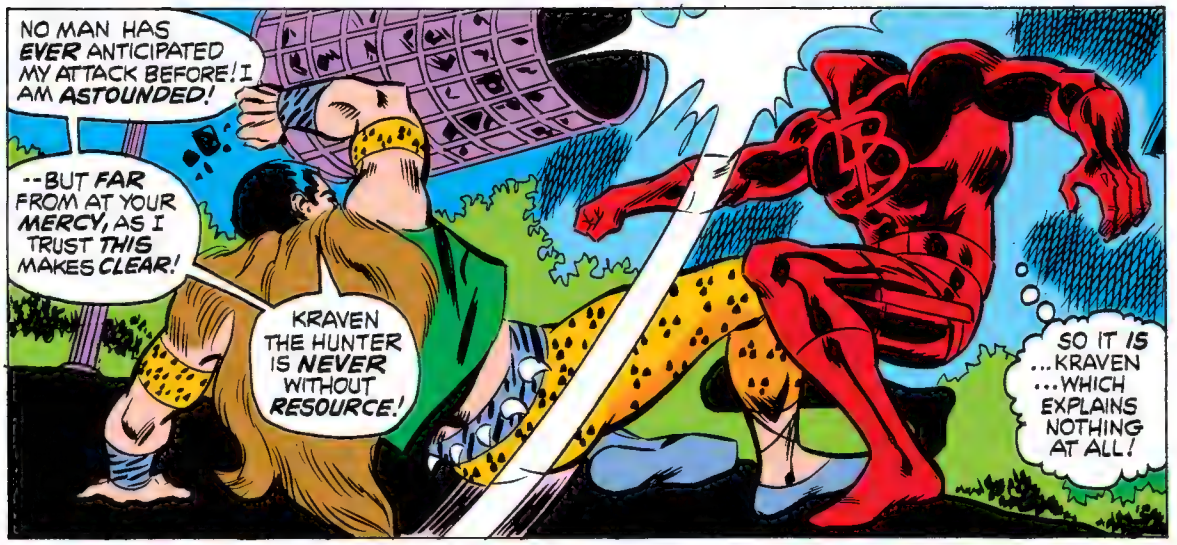

I HAVE ENOUGH HARD EVIDENCE RIGHT NOW TO SET THOSE KIDS FREE! I'M READY TO GO TO COURT!
WHY DID YOU INTERFERE? DID OUR SEMI-RETIRED PARTNER, BRODERICK, DEMAND IT?
HE'S A STUBBORN MAN, MATT--AND HE'S USED TO GETTING HIS WAY.
IT'S A HABIT HE'LL HAVE TO BREAK, THEN! I'LL PHONE THE JUDGE MONDAY AND TELL HIM TO FORGET THE DELAY.
AND FROM NOW ON, I HANDLE MY CASES MYSELF!


OKAY, COUNSELOR... IT'S YOUR BALLGAME. BUT TAKE MY ADVICE!
DON'T THROW AWAY A BRILLIANT CAREER ...ON AN IDEALISTIC IMPULSE.
NOW WHAT ON EARTH DID HE MEAN BY THAT--?
AND WHY IS BRODERICK GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS TO SEE THOSE KIDS PUT IN JAIL?

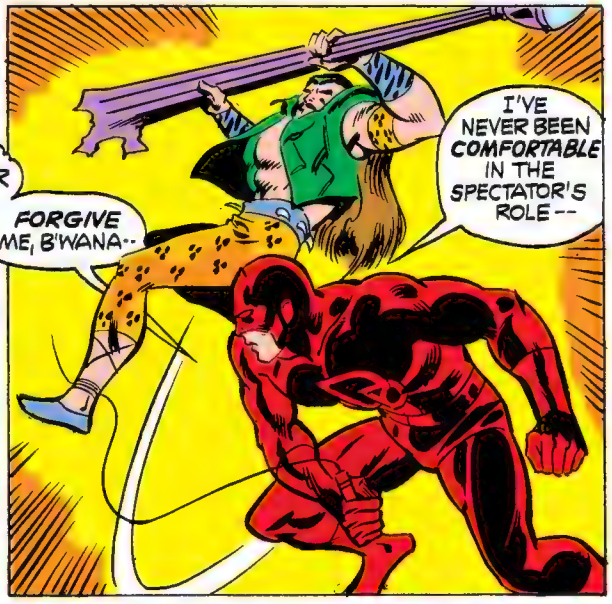

HOURS LATER, AS HIS TAXI SPEEDS TOWARD THE NORTH SHORE, MATT IS STILL PONDERING THOSE SAME QUESTIONS...
TAXI
CAN IT BE--THAT SOMETHING THOSE KIDS COULD SAY ON THE STAND MIGHT...?
NO, THAT'S RIDICULOUS. WHAT COULD "K.J.B." HAVE TO FEAR?
YELLOW CAB
YOU'RE HOME, MISTER. TWO EIGHTY-FIVE, PLEASE.
STRANGE... TASHA NEVER LEAVES THE GATE OPEN LIKE THIS.
AND THE PLACE IS QUIET AS A TOMB...!


AND INSIDE, MATT DISCOVERS WHY--!
GOOD LORD! THE HOUSE HAS BEEN TORN APART! WHO--?
MATT! OVER HERE!
HURRY! GET ME LOOSE, WILLYA!?
IVAN! WHERE'S NATASHA? WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
WHERE'S TASHA? TALK, MAN--!
SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY SOME NUT IN A JUNGLE SUIT--TWICE HER SIZE--TOO FAST FOR ME....
USED SOME KINDA POTION-- KNOCKED US OUT--!
AND HE LEFT A MESSAGE:
HE WON'T HURT TASHA IF YOU--DAREDEVIL--WILL MEET HIM--ALONE--
--AT THE ZOO.
THE ZOO!! THE GUY'S CRAZY!
MAYBE... BUT IF HE CAN DO THIS..!
...I DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT HOW CRAZY.
NOT WHILE TASHA'S LIFE MAY BE IN DANGER.
AND DON'T CALL THE POLICE-- NOT YET. IF I'M NOT BACK IN AN HOUR--THEN CALL!
AND SO, ACROSS THE EARLY EVENING SKY, DAREDEVIL HURTLES TOWARD GOLDEN GATE PARK--
"A NUT IN A JUNGLE SUIT," IVAN CALLED HIM. BUT IF IT'S WHO I THINK IT IS..!
AND YET... HE'S SPIDER-MAN'S ENEMY. I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM IN PERSON!

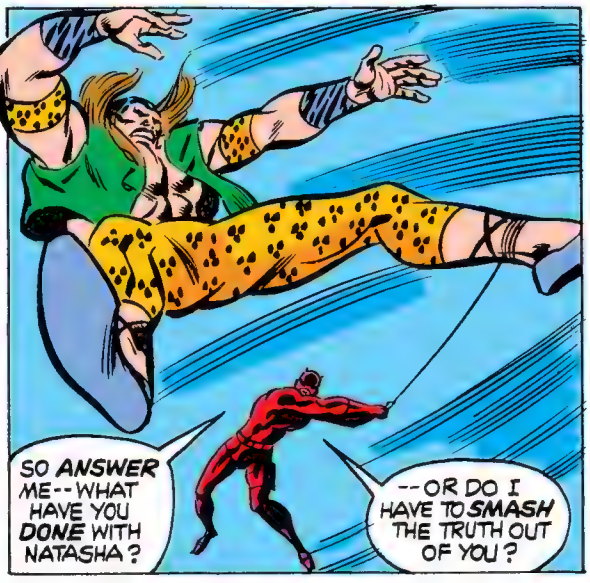

WHAT COULD KRAVEN THE HUNTER HAVE AGAINST ME?
WAIT-- HEAVY BREATHING-- TREE BRANCH ABOVE ME... CREAKING--HEARTBEAT... INCREDIBLY STRONG!
HE'S TENSED --ABOUT TO MAKE HIS MOVE...!
OKAY, FELLA-- READY-- WHEN YOU ARE...
HE STRIKES WITH THE UNTAMED FURY OF A JUNGLE CAT--THE FORCE OF A MIGHTY BULL ELEPHANT--
--YET WITH SUCH STEALTH AND SPEED--
--THAT ONLY A MAN WITH DAREDEVIL'S HYPER-SENSES COULD HAVE TIME TO BRACE FOR THE ONSLAUGHT!
AND SINCE THOSE HYPER-SENSES ARE A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET--
--IT'S THE HUNTER WHO'S CAUGHT UNAWARES!
ALL RIGHT, MISTER, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
AND WHERE'S THE BLACK WIDOW? TALK, OR I'LL--
UNNGH FOOL!


NO MAN HAS EVER ANTICIPATED MY ATTACK BEFORE! I AM ASTOUNDED!
--BUT FAR FROM AT YOUR MERCY, AS I TRUST THIS MAKES CLEAR!
KRAVEN THE HUNTER IS NEVER WITHOUT RESOURCE!
SO IT IS ...KRAVEN ...WHICH EXPLAINS NOTHING AT ALL!

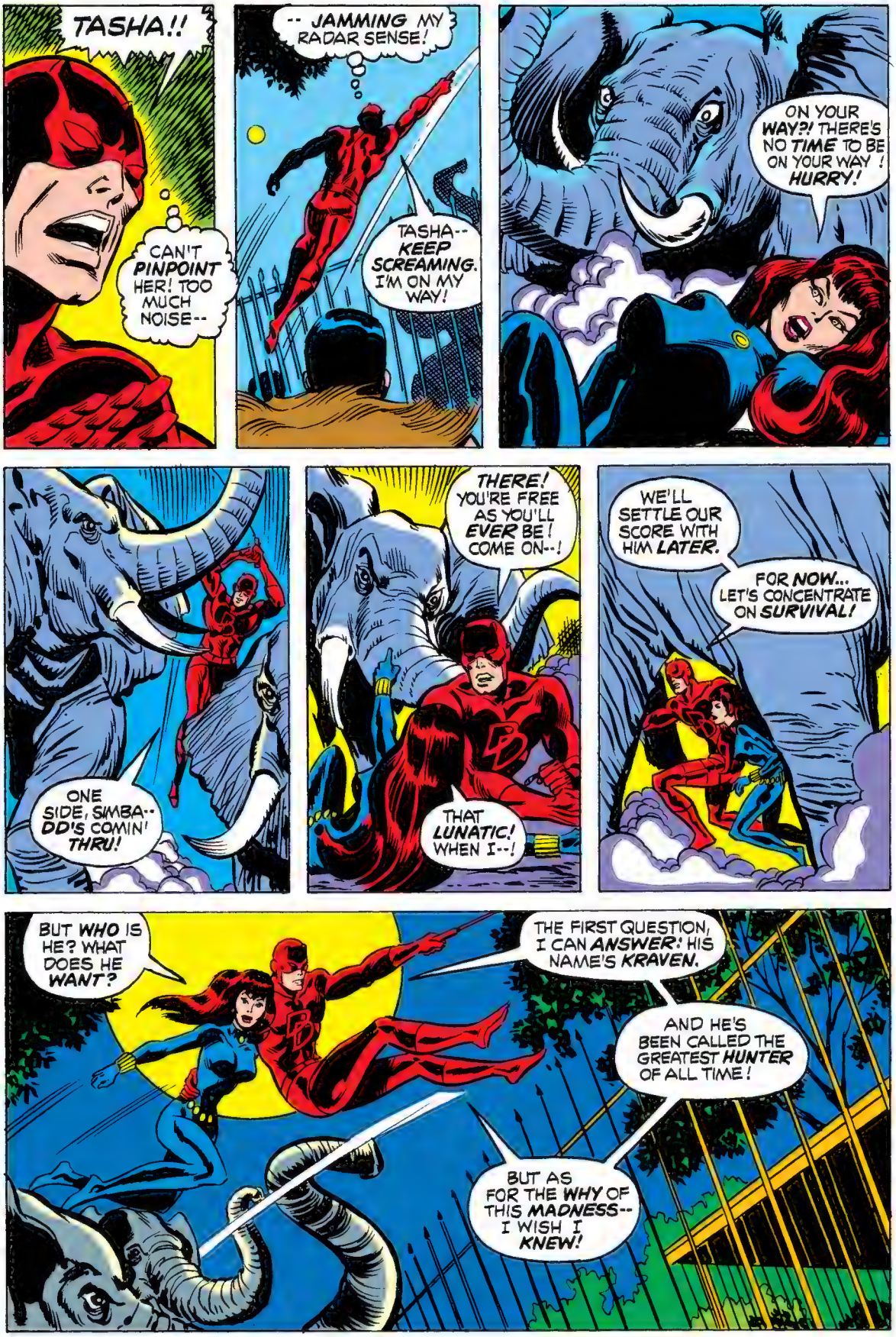
WATCH--AND SEE THE POWER OF ONE WHO CAN STOP A RHINO WITH BUT A SINGLE BLOW!
WATCH? NOT ON YOUR LIFE--OR MINE!

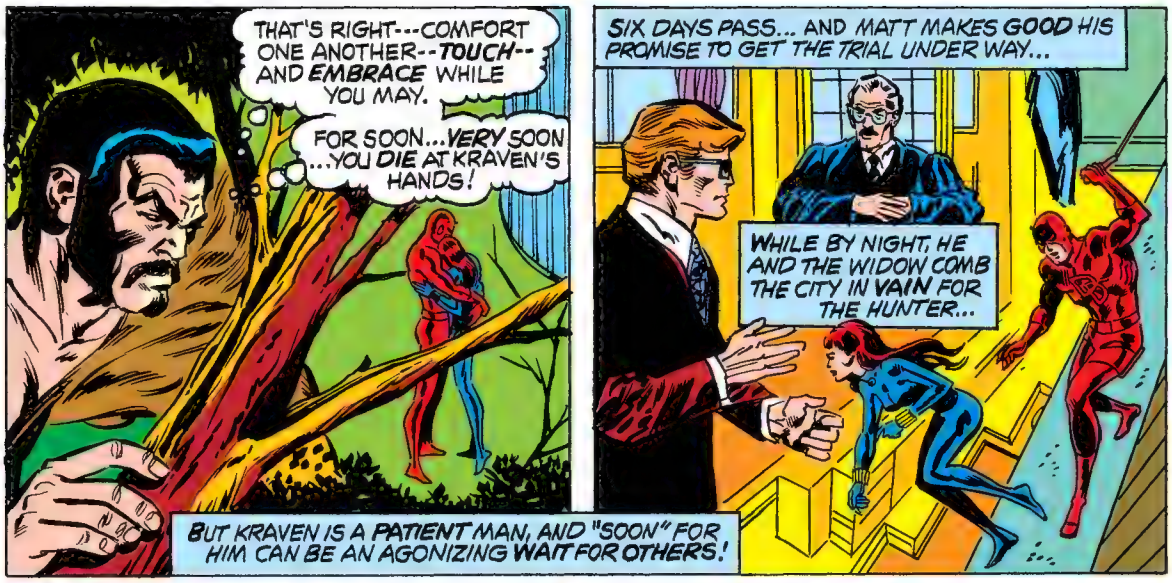

FORGIVE ME, B'WANA--
I'VE NEVER BEEN COMFORTABLE IN THE SPECTATOR'S ROLE--

--ESPECIALLY WHEN SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME IS THREATENED!


SO ANSWER ME--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH NATASHA?
--OR DO I HAVE TO SMASH THE TRUTH OUT OF YOU?

I AM PLEASED. HE SEEMS TO BE AS FORMIDABLE A FOE AS I HAD HOPED!
I SHALL ENJOY OUR REAL BATTLE WHEN ITS TIME COMES!
BUT NOW THAT I HAVE SOME MEASURE OF HIS ABILITY-- SOME TASTE OF HIS STYLE--
--I MUST BRING THIS TEST TO AN END.
SO IT'S THE FEMALE, YOU SEEK, IS IT?
THEN CAST A GLANCE TO THE ELEPHANT PIT--
--AS I SOUND THIS IVORY HORN, THIS ARTIFACT FROM ANCIENT AFRICA.
IT PLAYS ONLY ONE NOTE...
"...AN EERILY DISCORDANT WAIL...
"...THAT DRIVES THE BEASTS TO RAMPAGE!"
DAREDEVIL! HERE--I'M HERE!
AND WHERE, YOU ASK, IS "HERE"?
WHY, DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF HALF-A-DOZEN FOUR-HOOVED, TWO-TON LIVING ENGINES OF DEATH!
WHERE ELSE--?
CAN'T BREAK THESE LEATHER THONGS! MY ONLY HOPE IS--
DD-- PLEASE! HELP ME!


TASHA!!
CAN'T PINPOINT HER! TOO MUCH NOISE--
-- JAMMING MY RADAR SENSE!
TASHA-- KEEP SCREAMING. I'M ON MY WAY!
ON YOUR WAY?! THERE'S NO TIME TO BE ON YOUR WAY! HURRY!
ONE SIDE, SIMBA-- DD'S COMIN' THRU!
THERE! YOU'RE FREE AS YOU'LL EVER BE! COME ON--!
THAT LUNATIC! WHEN I--!
WE'LL SETTLE OUR SCORE WITH HIM LATER.
FOR NOW... LET'S CONCENTRATE ON SURVIVAL!
BUT WHO IS HE? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
THE FIRST QUESTION, I CAN ANSWER: HIS NAME'S KRAVEN.
AND HE'S BEEN CALLED THE GREATEST HUNTER OF ALL TIME!
BUT AS FOR THE WHY OF THIS MADNESS-- I WISH I KNEW!

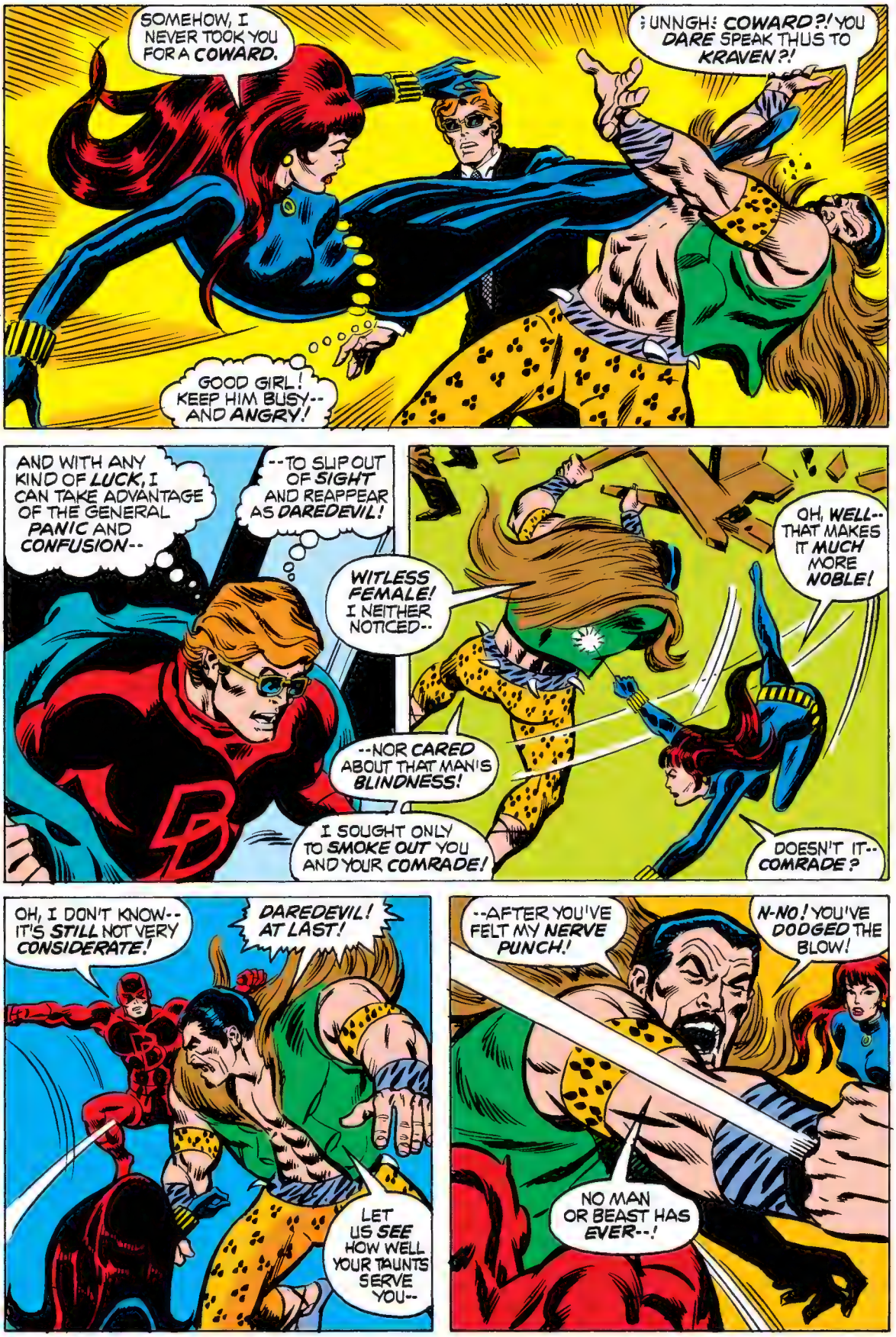

THAT'S RIGHT---COMFORT ONE ANOTHER--TOUCH--AND EMBRACE WHILE YOU MAY.
FOR SOON...VERY SOON ...YOU DIE AT KRAVEN'S HANDS!
BUT KRAVEN IS A PATIENT MAN, AND "SOON" FOR HIM CAN BE AN AGONIZING WAIT FOR OTHERS!
SIX DAYS PASS... AND MATT MAKES GOOD HIS PROMISE TO GET THE TRIAL UNDER WAY...
WHILE BY NIGHT, HE AND THE WIDOW COMB THE CITY IN VAIN FOR THE HUNTER...

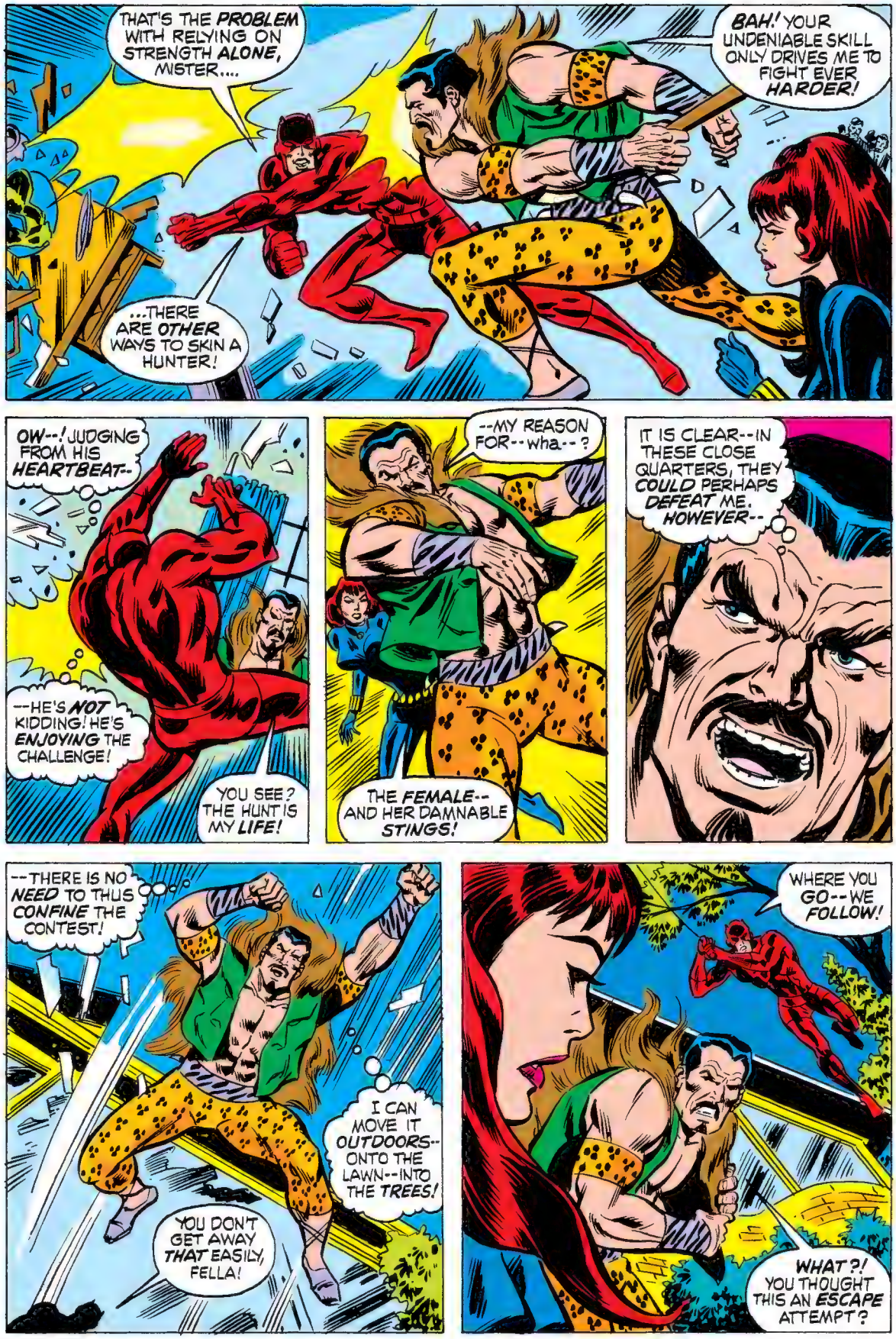
UNTIL--
C'MON, LAWYER --PUT AWAY THE BOOKS...
...OR YOU'LL BE LATE TO MEET BRODERICK.
MMM... STOP NIBBLING AT MY EAR, OR I'LL FORGET WHO HE IS!
LAW
VER-RY FUNNY! BUT FLATTER ME SOME MORE-- HOW DO I LOOK?
I DESIGNED THIS OUTFIT WITH YOU IN MIND. I CAN WEAR MY COSTUME UNDER-NEATH.
TASHA, I...I CAN'T SEE IT, REMEMBER?
LET'S GO...

FORTY MINUTES LATER... BRODERICK'S OPULENT HOME...
WELL, THIS IS IT...!
DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'LL YELL...OR JUST OPEN FIRE?
SHH--HE'S COMING!
AH! MATT AND NATASHA! AT LAST WE MEET! WELCOME!
GOOD EVENING, SIR. AND THANK YOU FOR HAVING US!

MY PLEASURE, MATT. ALREADY YOU'VE BECOME A CREDIT TO MY FIRM.
UH-OH.... HERE COMES THE "HOWEVER"!
HOWEVER, YOU NEEDN'T FEAR-- I WON'T BRING UP BUSINESS TONIGHT!
YOU'RE HERE TO ENJOY YOURSELVES.
HMMM... THAT'S NOT THE "HOWEVER" I EXPECTED. MAYBE I'VE MISJUDGED THIS MAN...!
AND SO, THE NIGHT MEANDERS ON, AND MATT AND NATASHA MINGLE WITH SOME OF SAN FRANCISCO'S FINEST....
WE'VE ALL READ SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, MISS ROMANOFF...
...THE WAY YOU SWING AROUND THE CITY IN THAT SKIN TIGHT COSTUME.
YES, WHAT POSSESSES YOU TO DO THAT?
...SO WE LEFT THE YACHT FOR THE OPERA!
GREAT STUFF, OPERA! DO YOU LIKE IT, MATT-BOY?
YES, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE?
MY FAV--? OH! UH, "TOMMY," I GUESS...BY THE WHO.
IT'S...A ROCK OPERA. VERY, EH, AVANT-GARDE.
HUMPH. HIPPIE MUSIC, IF YOU ASK ME!
SO YOU LIVE ALONE--WITH TWO MEN?
ON SEPARATE FLOORS, DEARY. DOES THAT SCANDALIZE YOU--?
--OR JUST MAKE YOU JEALOUS?

ALAS, THE GRACIOUS LADY'S INDIGNANT REPLY SHALL NE'ER BE HEARD...
FOR AT THAT MOMENT, AMID THE CACOPHONY OF SHATTERING GLASS AND ANGUISHED CRIES.....
KRAVEN HAS COME FOR--HIS PREY!
GOOD HEAVENS! IS THIS SOME SUPER FRIEND OF YOURS?
KRAVEN IS FRIEND TO NO ONE--LEAST OF ALL, THOSE HE HUNTS!
THE GUY'S C-CRAZY--!
NOW WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T LET HIM HARM INNOCENT PEOPLE--
--BUT IF I MAKE A MOVE TO STOP HIM...
WHICH IS WHY IT PAYS TO HAVE A PARTNER--!
UNHAND HIM, KRAVEN! FIGHT A FOE WHO CAN SEE YOU!
IT'S GOODBYE TO DAREDEVIL'S SECRET IDENTITY!


SOMEHOW, I NEVER TOOK YOU FOR A COWARD.
:UNNGH: COWARD?! YOU DARE SPEAK THUS TO KRAVEN?!
GOOD GIRL! KEEP HIM BUSY-- AND ANGRY!
AND WITH ANY KIND OF LUCK, I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GENERAL PANIC AND CONFUSION--
--TO SLIP OUT OF SIGHT AND REAPPEAR AS DAREDEVIL!
WITLESS FEMALE! I NEITHER NOTICED--
--NOR CARED ABOUT THAT MAN'S BLINDNESS!
I SOUGHT ONLY TO SMOKE OUT YOU AND YOUR COMRADE!
OH, WELL-- THAT MAKES IT MUCH MORE NOBLE!
DOESN'T IT-- COMRADE?
OH, I DON'T KNOW-- IT'S STILL NOT VERY CONSIDERATE!
DAREDEVIL! AT LAST!
LET US SEE HOW WELL YOUR TAUNTS SERVE YOU--
--AFTER YOU'VE FELT MY NERVE PUNCH!
N-NO! YOU'VE DODGED THE BLOW!
NO MAN OR BEAST HAS EVER--!


THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH RELYING ON STRENGTH ALONE, MISTER....
BAH! YOUR UNDENIABLE SKILL ONLY DRIVES ME TO FIGHT EVER HARDER!
...THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO SKIN A HUNTER!
OW--! JUDGING FROM HIS HEARTBEAT--
--HE'S NOT KIDDING! HE'S ENJOYING THE CHALLENGE!
YOU SEE? THE HUNT IS MY LIFE!
--MY REASON FOR--wha--?
THE FEMALE-- AND HER DAMNABLE STINGS!
IT IS CLEAR--IN THESE CLOSE QUARTERS, THEY COULD PERHAPS DEFEAT ME. HOWEVER--
--THERE IS NO NEED TO THUS CONFINE THE CONTEST!
I CAN MOVE IT OUTDOORS-- ONTO THE LAWN--INTO THE TREES!
YOU DON'T GET AWAY THAT EASILY, FELLA!
WHERE YOU GO--WE FOLLOW!
WHAT?! YOU THOUGHT THIS AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT?

THEN YOU ARE GREATER FOOLS--
--THAN I HAD WISHED!
FOR ME, THE BATTLE HAS BARELY BEGUN!
OOH-- THOSE CLAWS ARE REAL!
AND HE'S FASTER THAN WE THOUGHT!
LET'S HOPE HE'LL HAVE TO RETURN THAT COMPLIMENT!
NO, HORN-HEADED ONE, I SHALL NOT! KRAVEN IS NEVER DOWNED-- FOR LONG!
MINE IS THE SPEED OF THE CHEETAH-- THE STRENGTH OF THE RHINO--!
AND THE MOUTH OF THE HYENA!
YOU'RE TOO USED TO TACKLING ONE PREY AT A TIME!
YOU GET DISTRACTED TOO EASILY!
PERHAPS...BUT IT IS MY ONLY WEAKNESS!
NOTE HOW QUICKLY I RECOVER--
--AND TAKE TO THE BRANCHES...
...WHERE I AM MOST AT HOME!
SO I SEE.
BUT MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD--
I'M NOT BAD AT HIGH-ALTITUDE ACROBATICS MYSELF!

BUT YOU DO NOT POSSESS THE SPEED--THE JUNGLE-BRED SAVAGERY--
:AAGH: THOSE INFERNAL STINGS ASSAIL ME ONCE MORE!
ZZZT
I AM FORCED TO TAKE MORE DRASTIC ACTION. THUS--
--WHERE MY BLUDGEONING FISTS WILL NOT SUFFICE...
...PERHAPS A POTENT POISON DART WILL DO!
FROM HIS VEST, THE HUNTER PRODUCES A BLOW GUN, AND--
OOH--GOING NUMB--CAN'T HOLD...ON...!
ZIP
NATASHA!
KRAVEN, IF THAT FALL HAS HARMED HER--!
DO NOT FRET OVER HER, DAREDEVIL...
...WHEN YOUR OWN LIFE IS IN FAR GREATER JEOPARDY!
HAH! WITH THAT BLOW, CONSCIOUSNESS HAS GONE FROM YOU!
AND YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL---THAT YOU ARE NOT AWAKE--
--TO WITNESS YOUR FINAL FATE!
NEXT: WILL THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR LIVE TO FIGHT--"THE TERROR FROM TITAN!"

DAREDEVIL MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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DAREDEVIL® AND THE BLACK WIDOW™

DAREDEVIL! MEET MADAME MCEVIL'S TERRIBLE TRIO!

RAMROD-- THE SCREAMER-- AND THE DARK MESSIAH!

WE'RE THE LAST THINGS YOU'LL MEET-- IN THIS LIFE!

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Stan Lee presents: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

STEVE GERBER WRITER | DON HECK ARTIST | DON PERLIN INKER | JUNE BRAVERMAN LETTERER / JANICE COHEN COLORIST | ROY THOMAS EDITOR

WITNESS: A SCENE OF UNMITIGATED TERROR!

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR -- UNCONSCIOUS - HELD EFFORTLESSLY OFF THE GROUND BY THE IRON-THEWED ARMS OF KRAVEN THE HUNTER!

IT BEGAN AS A DINNER PARTY, HERE AT THE HOME OF MATT MURDOCK'S SENIOR LAW-PARTNER, KERWIN J. BRODERICK.

IT IS ABOUT TO END IN TRAGEDY--!

FOR THIS IS NO MERE STANCE OF VICTORY KRAVEN HAS ASSUMED--NO BRAZEN DISPLAY OF POWER--

--BUT, RATHER, THE POSE OF THE EXECUTIONER, STRUCK SOME FIFTY FEET ABOVE THE POUNDING PACIFIC SURF!

MENACE FROM THE MOONS OF SATURN!

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HE REALLY MEANS TO *KILL* DAREDEVIL-- RIGHT BEFORE OUR *EYES!*

WE'VE *GOT* TO *DO* SOMETHING!

AGAINST *HIM?!* I- I DON'T KNOW...WE MIGHT BE *HURT!*

THEY *SAY* HE HUNTS JUST FOR THE *THRILL* OF IT --AND DESTROYS HIS PREY WITHOUT *MERCY!*

UTTERLY WITHOUT MERCY, YOU SPINELESS LOUT! *WATCH!*

WHILE, MERE YARDS AWAY...

OH, MY ACHING *BODY!* WHAT *HAPPENED* TO ME?

WAIT...I REMEMBER...! THE POTION-TIPPED *DART* OF KRAVEN'S... I PASSED OUT... FELL...!

BUT...

WHERE *ARE* THEY-- *DD* AND KRAVEN?

EYES STILL *HAZY...* CAN'T QUITE MAKE OUT WHO --*OH!*

NO!!

STILL THE NUMBING POTION COURSES THRU HER VEINS-- BUT SHE FIGHTS IT --RISES TO HER FEET.

SHE HAS SEEN WHAT WE HAVE: THAT HER PARTNER FACES DEATH! AND NO POTION...

... COULD NOW QUELL HER ANGER!

WHY HAVEN'T YOU TRIED TO *HELP* HIM? ARE YOU *ALL* COWARDS--?

NOW, *WAIT* A MINUTE, LADY--! THIS WASN'T *OUR* FIGHT!

HUSH, CHARLES!

SHE'S RIGHT-- AND YOU *KNOW* IT.

SO, *BLACK WIDOW*-- YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM MY LITTLE *STING,* I SEE.

GOOD! COME *CLOSER,* WOMAN!

COME SEE YOUR *MAN PERISH* ON THE ROCKS, BELOW!

I WARN YOU, KRAVEN, I'LL--

YOU BORE ME, FEMALE.

STOP--OR I SWEAR, I'LL KILL YOU--!

SAVE YOUR SIMPLE-MINDED THREATS.

THE HUNT ENDS HERE.

EVERY VOICE GOES STILL... AS DD BEGINS HIS DOWNWARD FLIGHT TO DOOM.

BUT, AS HE FALLS...

...THE WIND RUSHING PAST HIS FACE...

HOLY CROW!!

...AWAKES HIM!

GOT TO TWIST MYSELF AROUND--!

DIVE BETWEEN THE ROCKS!

THERE! I'M GETTING IT! I--

--MADE IT!

PFFT!

HUH--?

OOH! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! HE'S-- DISAPPEARED!

HOW--? WHY? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

ANSWER ME!

YOU LITTLE FOOL--I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS MADNESS!

SUCH PRANKS ARE NOT THE WAY OF KRAVEN!

TELL IT TO THE JUDGE, JUNGLE JIM! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

NOW... DO YOU WANNA COME PEACEFULLY OR DO WE--

SO! ONE OF THESE RECREANTS ACTUALLY SUMMONED UP THE NERVE TO CALL THE POLICE!

BUT I SUBMIT TO NO ONE!

HE'S TAKIN' OFF! FIRE! TRY TO WING HIM!

WING HIM?! I CAN'T EVEN KEEP UP WITH HIM!

HE'S DODGING OUR FIRE, MAN!

AND CHARGING STRAIGHT AT US!

IDIOTS! DID YOU TRULY EXPECT GUNS TO FAZE KRAVEN--?

--A MAN WHO'S STALKED RHINO, BARE-HANDED--?

--A MAN BEFORE WHOM LIONS CRINGE IN FEAR?

FRANKLY-- NO. AND I DON'T EXPECT THIS TO WORK, EITHER!

BUT IT \UNNGH/ MAY SET YOU OFF-BALANCE ENOUGH--

--FOR ME TO FINISH THE JOB WITH A BLOW TO THE BASE OF THE SKULL!

BEAUTIFUL, TASHA! HE NEVER SAW YOU COMING.

HE DIDN'T THINK... I HAD THE STRENGTH... TO ATTACK HIM...!

HE... WASN'T FAR WRONG...!

BUT I'M *ALWAYS* LEANING ON YOU-- YOU'RE ALWAYS *THERE* WHEN I *NEED* YOU--!

POOR PAUL... MY POOR, POOR PAUL...

...ALWAYS *GIVING*...TAKING NOTHING IN *RETURN*...!

DON'T WORRY, TASH. HORN-HEAD'S OKAY... YOU'LL *SEE*.

HEY, LADY--WHAT *IS* THIS? YOU'RE WEAK AS A *KITTEN*!

I'M ALL RIGHT, PAUL...IT'S ONE OF KRAVEN'S *POTIONS*, THAT'S ALL...

...*THAT*, AND DD. I'M *SO* AFRAID...!

LEAN ON *PAUL CARSON*, TASHA. THAT'S WHAT COPS-- AND FRIENDS-- ARE *FOR*.

...BETWEEN NEWSWOMAN *LUCRETIA JONES*, AND HER DIRECTOR, *ASHLEY SANDERS*...!

LUCRETIA, IS IT MY *IMAGINATION*--

SAN FRANCISCO

KSG--T

--OR ARE YOU MORE, EH, *CONCERNED* WITH THIS STORY THAN WITH MOST?

PONDER PAUL CARSON'S NON-SEQUITUR... AS WE WATCH ANOTHER SCENE UNFOLD...

...THIS TIME IN THE KSG-TV MOBILE "*VIDEO-WAGON*"...

HMM..? OH, COME ON, SANDY! IT'S JUST THAT I'VE *MET* DAREDEVIL A FEW TIMES.*

I'VE A *GREAT* DEAL OF ADMIRATION FOR HIM...AND THE *WIDOW*, TOO, OF COURSE.

*DD/BW #95 & 96.--ROY.

I SEE. LUCRETIA-- TAKE MY *ADVICE*. IT'S NOT *WISE* TO GET PERSONALLY *INVOLVED* WITH THE NEWS--IT CLOUD'S ONES *OBJECTIVITY* AND SO ON.

WE CATCH *ENOUGH* FLAK ON THAT COUNT *ALREADY*.

I KNOW, SANDY. BUT IT'S NOT *EASY* TO BE OBJECTIVE WHEN "THE NEWS" IS A MAN'S *LIFE*.

AND SINCE WE FIGURE THAT, BY NOW, **YOU'RE** AS CONCERNED AS PAUL OR TASHA OR LUCRETIA... **HERE COMES DAREDEVIL!**

WHAT ON **EARTH** IS GOING **ON** AROUND HERE...?

...ASSUMING "AROUND HERE" **IS** ON **EARTH**, THAT IS.

LAST I **RECALL**, I WAS ABOUT TO HIT THE **WATER**--

--THEN I **BLACKED OUT** AGAIN--!

AND **NOW** HERE I AM IN SOME WEIRD METAL **CORRIDOR!**

AT LEAST... IT **SEEMS** METALLIC, JUDGING FROM THE SOUND MY **BOOTS** MAKE AGAINST IT.

BUT THAT **STILL** DOESN'T TELL ME WHERE "HERE" **IS!**

WAIT-- THAT FAINT **SIBILANCE**-- LIKE THE LAPPING OF WAVES...! THIS PLACE IS **UNDER** THE **WATER!**

NO...NOT "**THE**" WATER. JUST **WATER.**

I CAN'T BE SURE I'M ANYWHERE **NEAR** BRODERICK'S ESTATE.

THE WALLS **VIBRATE** --MACHINERY **BEHIND** THEM, PROBABLY. AND **ON** THEM-- **HIEROGLYPHS** OF SOME SORT...!

CAN'T BREAK **OUT** OF HERE... MAYBE IF I **FOLLOW** THESE ETCHED SYMBOLS...!

AND SO, ONE LABYRINTH LATER...

I HALF-EXPECTED TO MEET A **MINOTAUR** SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY...

...BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE LINE: A MASSIVE, ORNATE **DOORWAY.**

AND THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO BUT --**IN.**

BUT HOW DOES ONE *GET* IN? THERE ARE NO *HANDLES* ON THE DOORS--AND EVEN IF THERE *WERE*--

--IT WOULD TAKE THE STRENGTH OF *THOR* TO PULL THEM OPEN.

THEY'RE *STEEL*... MUST BE A FOOT THI-- *WHOA*--!

I'VE TRIPPED SOME KIND OF *LIGHT-BEAM*--I CAN FEEL ITS *HEAT*, EVER SO SLIGHTLY, ON MY *HAND!*

MUST'VE SET SOME KIND OF *APPARATUS* INTO MOTION...!

THE DOORS ARE OPENING *THEM-SELVES.*

*HE STEPS FORWARD--SINEWS TAUT--ANTICIPATING VIRTUALLY **ANY** KIND OF **DANGER**--*

*--AND FINDS, INSTEAD, A **PARADISE!***

*A MULTI-TIERED **GARDEN** OF UN-EARTHLY DELIGHTS--A PLEASURE-DOME TO RIVAL--NAY, **HUMBLE**--KUBLA KHAN'S...!*

*...AN ARRAY OF **SHAPES** AND **SCENTS** HERETOFORE **OUTSIDE** HUMAN EXPERIENCE!*

*AND IN THEIR MIDST --A **WOMAN.***

*FOR A MOMENT, DAREDEVIL STANDS IN STUNNED **SILENCE**, ALLOWING HIS **RADAR SENSE** TO DRINK IN THE SHEER **SPECTACLE**--!*

EVEN THE *AIR* IS DIFFERENT IN THIS PLACE! ALMOST...*INTOXICATING.*

AND THAT *WOMAN*--! EVEN WITHOUT HAIR... SHE'S THE MOST STRIKINGLY *BEAUTIFUL* FEMALE I'VE EVER "SEEN"!

AND YET, THERE'S SOMETHING *EERIE* ABOUT HER. WHAT...?

GOOD LORD! NOW I KNOW...!

SHE HAS *NO* DISCERNIBLE *HEARTBEAT!*

IT'S AS IF SHE'S STANDING THERE--*STONE COLD DEAD!*

MAYBE IF I MOVE *CLOSER*--YES! THERE IT IS--BUT *SO SLOW*--SO INDISTINCT--

--EVEN *MY* HEARING CAN BARELY DETECT IT!

I'VE *GOT* TO FIND OUT WHO SHE IS--WHERE SHE *CAME* FROM--!

I'LL *TOUCH* HER--GENTLY--TRY TO *WAKE* HER FROM THIS TRANCE-LIKE STATE SHE'S IN.

UNNGH!

OFFHAND, I'D SAY I *SUCCEEDED!*

THAT *HURT!*

HOW *DARE* YOU DISTURB MY *MEDITATION?!*

AND HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR *WAY* TO THIS CHAMBER?

I WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF *PREPARING* FOR OUR MEETING!

OKAY, SO THE GUEST ARRIVED **EARLY**--THAT'S NO REASON TO GET **VIOLENT!**

YOU ARE EMPHATICALLY **NOT** MY **GUEST**, RED-GARBED ONE.

RATHER, YOU ARE MY **PRISONER.**

UH-HUH. **NEXT** QUESTION:

WHO THE HECK **ARE** YOU?

I? I AM **ALL** THINGS TO ALL **MEN**: PHILOSOPHER... WARRIOR... SCIENTIST... LOVER... BUT **ABOVE ALL**--

--A **PRIESTESS** OF **TITAN!**

WHILE **YOU** ARE A **THANOS-THRALL**, AND THEREFORE--

--MY **ENEMY!!**

HMM... NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT HEARTBEAT **NOW**--!

LOOK, LADY, I'VE NEVER **HEARD** OF THANOS OR TITAN OR THRALLS...

...BUT IF YOU **INSIST** ON BEING **HOSTILE**...

...I'M GOING TO **HAVE** TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF YOUR CAPE.

NOW--SUPPOSE YOU JUST TELL ME-- **QUIETLY**--

OH, **COME** NOW, DAREDEVIL!

--WHAT **THIS** PLACE IS... WHAT OR WHO **TITAN** IS...

YOUR PRETENSE TO **INNOCENCE** INSULTS US **BOTH.**

STILL, I **AM** AMUSED BY YOUR NOTION THAT YOU'VE **CONQUERED** ME.

INDEED--AMUSED ENOUGH TO **DEMONSTRATE** FOR YOU--

--WHY NO MAN OF EARTH CAN BEND ME TO HIS WILL!

BEHOLD -- THE POWER OF THE MIND-BURST!

FEEL IT SEAR THROUGH YOUR BRAIN -- CHOKE YOUR VERY THOUGHTS--

--SEND YOU REELING BACKWARD!

AND LEST YOU THINK IT CAN BE APPLIED ONLY TO LIVING ENTITIES --

--LET US NOW DISPOSE OF YOUR PRIMITIVE WEAPON--

--IN SIMILAR EFFORTLESS FASHION! SO!

I WARN YOU, DAREDEVIL-- NEVER DEFY ME AGAIN! YOU SEE, THE MIND-BURST IS PURE MENTAL FORCE--

--GENERATED AND AMPLIFIED IN THE CEREBRAL CORTEX.

IT CAN KILL AT THE WIELDER'S WHIM.

I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT THANKS FOR SPARING ME.

FROM A THANOS THRALL?! OF COURSE NOT!

BUT PERHAPS YOU WILL PROVIDE ME WITH CERTAIN... INFORMATION.

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA--SUPPOSE WE MEET HALF-WAY.

YOU GO FIRST--TELL ME WHO YOU ARE-- AND WHERE I AM. AND THEN...

INTERESTING. THANOS DID NOT TELL YOU OF ME...?

VERY WELL... HEAR IT FROM MY OWN LIPS, THEN.

YOU ASK ME WHO I AM...BUT I CANNOT ANSWER.

FOR, IN TRUTH, I AM NAMELESS.

A COMPUTER I CREATED ONCE DUBBED ME: "MADAME MACEVIL."

BUT I PREFER THE NAME GIVEN TO ME BY THE TEACHERS OF TITAN...

THEY NAMED ME FOR THE COSMOS-SLITHERING BEAST OF INTERSTELLAR LEGEND...

FOR, IN FACT, MY TALE SPANS THIS SOLAR SYSTEM, FROM THE VERY ORB ON WHICH WE STAND--

--TO THE WORLD CALLED TITAN--SATURN'S LARGEST SATELLITE.

AND THUS HAVE I COME TO BE KNOWN AS...

MOON DRAGON

PENCILS ON "TITAN" SEQUENCE BY JIM STARLIN

"I WAS BORN ON EARTH... IN THE PERIOD YOU CALL THE NINETEEN-FIFTIES.

"AND IT WAS IN AN AUTO CRASH ON EARTH THAT MY PARENTS DIED.

"A STRANGE BLUE LIGHT HAD APPEARED IN THE SKY--'U.F.O.'S' YOU CALLED THEM IN THOSE DAYS...

"THE CAR'S ENGINE--AND BRAKES--HAD FAILED.

"AND I WAS THE LONE SURVIVOR--A MERE CHILD, UTTERLY HELPLESS...

"UNTIL I LOOKED UP FROM THE MUD...AND SAW BEFORE ME...

"...WHAT I ASSUMED AT THE TIME MUST BE AN ANGEL!

"AND HE WAS REACHING OUT TO AID ME!

"I FAIRLY **SEIZED** HIS SOFT, GENTLE HAND--**BEGGED** HIM TO TAKE ME WITH HIM BACK TO **HEAVEN**--!

"AND SO ONE LIFE **ENDED** FOR ME...

"...AND ANOTHER **BEGAN**, ALL IN THE SAME INSTANT.

"PAST THE MOON AND MARS WE **SOARED**...

"BUT WE NEVER **GOT** TO HEAVEN.

"WE 'FOUND' SOMEPLACE **BETTER**.

"I 'SPENT MY FIRST DAYS ON **TITAN** IN THE HOME OF **MENTOR**, THE PLANETARY LEADER...

SHE WAS A...CASUALTY OF ONE OF OUR **MISSIONARY** EXPEDITIONS, KAZANTRA.

SHE'S A **BRIGHT** GIRL, MENTOR ...CURIOUS AND STRONG-WILLED.

AND I **FULLY** UNDERSTAND WHY **EMLOT** BROUGHT HER TO TITAN.

EVEN NOW, **EARTH** IS BECOMING A **WASTELAND** ...UNHEALTHY FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER LIVING THINGS.

BUT EVEN SO...**WE** CAN'T RAISE HER OURSELVES. WE HAVE SO MUCH TROUBLE **ALREADY**...

...WITH OUR **OWN** SON-- **THANOS!**

THEN WE HAVE NO **CHOICE**...

WE MUST **SUMMON** EMLOT TO TAKE HER TO THE SHAO-LOM **MONASTERY.**

LET US **PRAY** SHE FINDS HER SOUL **THERE.**

"AT FIRST, THE TITAN MONASTERY **TERRIFIED** ME. I FELT ALMOST **IMPRISONED** IN ITS GRAY STONE WALLS.

"AND ALWAYS I WAS CONSCIOUS OF MY **AGE**, RELATIVE TO THAT OF THE STRUCTURE ITSELF.

"IT HAD BEEN STANDING FOR TENS OF CENTURIES BEFORE **I** COULD STAND AT ALL.

"AND YET, THERE IN THE OMNIPRESENT SHADOW OF THE STATUE OF **KALUBA** THE MASTER--

"--A KIND OF **MIRACLE** WAS HAPPENING.

THE WALLS ARE **BARE** FOR GOOD **REASON**, CHILD.

WITH NOTHING THERE TO **DISTRACT** US-- WE ARE FREE TO LOOK MORE DEEPLY INTO **OURSELVES.**

"MENTOR'S **PRAYERS** HAD BEEN **ANSWERED** --MANY TIMES OVER.

"I FOUND MY **SOUL** --AND FAR **MORE.**

"I DISCOVERED THE PURE JOY OF **LEARNING** --FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

"UNHAMPERED BY THE **LUNACY** YOU CALL "EDUCATION" --GRADES, EXAMS, AWARDS--MY MIND GREW TO FULL FLOWER.

"CONCOMITANTLY, I DISCOVERED MY **BODY**-- THAT IT WAS **MINE** TO CONTROL--

"--THAT IT COULD WITHSTAND **ENORMOUS** STRESS--AND YIELD ENORMOUS **PLEASURES.**

"WHICH LED, IN TURN, TO **DISCIPLINE**-- FOCUSING THAT STRENGTH OF MIND AND BODY.

"I BECAME TITAN'S FOREMOST WOMAN **ATHLETE**--AND HER MOST RENOWNED **GENETICIST,** AS WELL.

"AND I ATTAINED A DEGREE OF SERENITY FEW OTHERS WILL EVER KNOW.

"BUT AT WHAT A PRICE!

"WE HAD CLOSED OURSELVES OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE...

"...TOO MUCH. WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING--

"--THAT THANOS HAD GROWN INTO A MONSTER--

"--THAT HE HAD OVERTHROWN HIS FATHER--

"--SEEKING TO RULE TITAN AND THE UNIVERSE--HIMSELF!

"NO...WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING--UNTIL HE DESTROYED US.

"AGAIN, I WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR--AND I VOWED VENGEANCE!

"AND THEN...I KNEELED AND WEPT FOR THE AGES-OLD WALLS.

"SOON, THANOS CONTROLLED ALL TITAN*--AND SO I LEFT--ON A COURSE FOR...

"...MY NATIVE WORLD--EARTH!

*SEE CAPT. MARVEL #27. --R.T.

"AT FIRST, IT WAS SIMPLY TO CONTINUE MY GENETICS EXPERIMENTS...BUT THE MISSION GREW IN SCOPE WITH EACH PASSING DAY.

"THANOS, I LEARNED, HAD AGENTS ON EARTH--THRALLS, HE CALLS THEM. HE WANTS THIS WORLD, TOO!

"TIME WAS PRECIOUS, AND I WAS **FORCED** TO TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES--TO LEARN THE TYPE OF ANTAGONIST WHO COULD **BEST** WAGE **WAR** ON HUMAN THRALLS.

"I WENT SO FAR AS TO PROVOKE AN ALL-OUT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO EARTH HEROES --**IRON MAN** AND THE **SUB-MARINER** --*

"--SIMPLY TO **STUDY** THEIR FIGHTING TECHNIQUES, THEIR **FEARS**, THEIR STRENGTHS...!"

*IRON MAN #55--ROY.

FINALLY, LEARNING THAT TITAN'S ONLY EARTH-ALLIES, THE KREE CAPTAIN **MAR-VELL** AND **IRON MAN** HIMSELF, LIVED ON THIS CONTINENT'S **EASTERN** SHORE--

--I MOVED MY UNDERSEA BASE HERE TO THE **WEST**--CONSTRUCTED THIS SECRET **FORTRESS**--AND MADE A HUMAN **ALLY!**

WITH THIS **AID**, I SOON DEDUCED THAT **YOU**, DAREDEVIL, WERE A THRALL!

AND SINCE THEN--AGAIN WITH HIS INVALUABLE HELP--I HAVE COME TO REALIZE **MORE!**

I'VE **WATCHED** THIS ENTIRE CITY CLOSELY--SEEN HOW ITS PEOPLE **CHEER** YOUR EXPLOITS--!

I AM CONVINCED THAT SAN FRANCISCO IS **THANOS-CONTROLLED!**

YOU BET.

AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT MUST BE **CLEANSED!**

CLEANSED?! LADY, **YOU** ARE A RAVING **PARANOID!** AND WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO, I'M GOING TO **STOP** IT!

--SO YOU CAN **NOT** STOP IT!

BUT, DO YOU NOT **SEE?** THAT IS PRECISELY WHY YOU ARE **HERE**--!

NOW, WITH YOU IN MY GRASP--I CAN UNLEASH MY **CREATIONS** ON THE CITY AGAIN--CONFIDENT THEY WILL **SUCCEED** AT THEIR MAMMOTH TASK.

CREATIONS? WHAT CREATIONS?

WHY--THE **DARK MESSIAH**--THE **RAMROD**--AND ANGAR THE **SCREAMER**--!

"THE PROCESS IS STARTING EVEN NOW--AMID THE WRECKAGE OF THE EDIFICE POOR **MORDECAI** DESTROYED WHEN HE... SHORT-CIRCUITED."*

*DD/BW #98.--R.T.

I AIN'T NEVER **SEEN** NOTHIN' LIKE IT! THE **AIR'S** BURNIN' UP!

A--A PILLAR OF **FIRE!** IS IT--?

NO, WAIT--IT AIN'T THE END! **CRIPES**--DON'TCHA **SEE?**

IT MUST BE **ATOMS**--OR **MOLECULES**--NOT FIRE!

"THEY'RE FORMIN' THEM-SELVES INTO A **MAN**--THAT CREEP **DD** FOUGHT WEEKS AGO--

"--THE **DARK MESSIAH!!**"

WHILE, IN A POLICE **HOSPITAL**, MILES DISTANT--

HEY!! YOU'RE IN A **COMA!** YOU CAN'T--!

I **CAN'T,** HUH? TRY'N **STOP** ME!

B-BUT YOU'RE UNDER **ARREST!**

IZZAT **SO?** WELL, **GET** THIS, CRUMB--

THE RAMROD'S BUSTIN' LOOSE!!

AND ACROSS THE BAY IN BERKELEY, AT A COFFEE HOUSE NEAR CAMPUS...

I AM DAVID ANGAR. I AM SANE.

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT, JANIS, AND YET...!

IT'S TRUE, MAN. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

I WANT TO-- SO BADLY--BUT WHEN I REMEMBER--

--THE POWER I HELD--THE MIND-STORM--!

I AM DAVID ANGAR. AM I SANE?

IT'S LIKE A VOICE CALLING TO ME--NOW-- AND I GOTTA ANSWER!

I CAN'T FIGHT IT ANYMORE! I AM WHAT I AM!

GOOD LORD! DO YOU SEE WHO THAT IS?!

DAVID--NO! YOU MUSTN'T--!

YOU'RE WRONG, JANIS--I MUST! 'CAUSE I AM--

ANGAR-- THE SCREAMER!!

HE IS CHAOS INCARNATE-- DESTROYER OF MEN'S MINDS--!

AND AS HE WAILS HIS DEMONSONG--REALITY BURSTS APART, FLYING THIS WAY AND THAT IN JAGGED SHARDS--!

AND SO DOES DAREDEVIL'S **TEMPER--!**

YOU **CREATED** THOSE VILLAINS?!

WHA--? HOW **DARE** YOU TOUCH ME!

TOUCH YOU? LADY, I OUGHT TO--!

DON'T YOU **REALIZE** WHAT YOU'VE **DONE?**

ARE YOU THAT **BLIND?**

L-LET **GO** OF ME! I **DEMAND** IT!!

OH, **RIGHT!** SO YOU CAN MIND-BLAST ME AGAIN?

NO **WAY!** FIRST...YOU **LISTEN!**

THE TITANS WASTED THEIR EFFORTS ON YOU, MOON DRAGON. THEY HAVEN'T MADE YOU **WISE**--JUST **ARROGANT!**

IF YOU TRULY **COULD** LOOK INTO A PERSON--YOU'D **SEE** YOUR ERROR--YOU'D **KNOW!**

YOU THINK I **FEAR** SUCH A TEST?

HERE, THEN--STEP CLOSER--LET ME **PROBE** YOUR INNER-MOST THOUGHTS--

--AND SO **PROVE** YOU ARE **LYING!**

WAIT--WHAT...ARE...YOU DOING...?

SHE IS...**EXPLORING**, SEEKING ENTRANCE TO HIS **BEING.**

GENTLY, SHE DRAWS HIM TO HER, AND FOR THE BAREST **INSTANT** THEY ACHIEVE--

--**TOTAL** COMMUNICATION.

BUT THAT MEREST MOMENT, APPARENTLY...IS **ENOUGH!**

NO!!

YOU SPOKE THE **TRUTH!** YOU ARE **NOT** EVIL!!

I'VE DONE YOU A **TERRIBLE** WRONG!

AND IT'S ONE YOU WON'T **UN**-DO, EITHER, DEAR LADY.

YOU!!

RINGS OF SATURN! MY SUPPOSED --**ALLY!**

OF COURSE, YOU HORN-HEADED GAWK!

WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN BUT--KERWIN J. BRODERICK?

AND NOW THAT OUR PRIESTESS UNDERSTANDS--

HER TIME HAS COME TO DIE!

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SHE SERVED MY PURPOSE WELL--BUT NO LONGER! LOOK AT HER! WEAK! TREMBLING!

CLINGING TO YOU LIKE SLIME AS SHE DIES!

THERE BE MO-MENTS WHEN A MAN CAN SAY NOTHING.

YET, WHILE TRAGEDY STRIKES BELOW--VICTORY REIGNS ABOVE--!

KRAVEN'S GOING QUIETLY. IT'S OVER... FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

NO, PAUL... NOT UNTIL WE FIND OD. PERHAPS THEN...!

ASSUMING "THEN" EVER COMES--FOR AT THAT MOMENT--!

HEY! THE GROUND'S QUAKING! LOOK OVER THERE!

PAUL... IT'S SOME KIND OF ERUPTION!

NO. IT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

IT IS A MENACE UNLIKE ANY THAT HAS WALKED THE EARTH BEFORE.

IT IS--

TERREX!

AND WHAT HE IS--IS EARTH ITSELF!

NEXT • BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE IS A LOGICAL EXPLA-• NATION FOR THIS, AND YOU'LL FIND IT--PLUS A STUNNING SURPRISE IN --

"LIFE BE NOT PROUD!"

DAREDEVIL
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DAREDEVIL® AND THE BLACK WIDOW™

WIDOW-- STAY BACK! THAT THING'S MONSTROUS, DEADLY-- AND IT CAN'T BE STOPPED!

I AM TERREX-- AND I AM DEATH!

AND IF TERREX DON'T WASTE YOU TWO CLOWNS--THEN RAMROD WILL!!

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Stan Lee presents: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

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LIFE BE NOT PROUD!

THE HERO IN RED IS *DAREDEVIL*...THE WOMAN IN HIS ARMS, A TITAN PRIESTESS CALLED *MOON DRAGON*...AND THE MAN WITH THE *GUN* IS...

KERWIN BRODERICK--SAN FRANCISCO'S MOST RESPECTED *LAWYER*--! YET YOU'VE *MURDERED* THIS WOMAN! *WHY??*

BECAUSE, LIKE *YOU* AND THE *BLACK WIDOW*, SHE STOOD BETWEEN ME AND MY *EMPIRE!*

DON'T *MOURN* FOR HER, DAREDEVIL. RATHER, WATCH THIS GIANT *SCREEN*--

--AND *OBSERVE* THE *MONSTER* SHE UNWITTINGLY GAVE ME THE POWER TO *CONTROL!* HE IS CALLED... *TERREX!*

AND HIS *POWER* IS THAT OF *LIFE ITSELF!*

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BUT TERREX IS NOT THE **ONLY** THREAT FACING OUR "FAIR CITY" THIS DAY-- FAR **FROM** IT!

LOOK--I'LL SHOW YOU THE **OTHERS** I HAVE AT MY COMMAND! **MY** COMMAND!

"BEHOLD--AS THE **DARK MESSIAH** STALKS THE STREETS --AS HE PROJECTS HIS IMPENETRABLE **FORCE-FIELD**--!

"AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE CITY IS **SEALED OFF** FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD!

"NONE CAN **ENTER**--AND NONE MAY **LEAVE**.

"AND ALL **WITHIN** ARE AT MY **MERCY**!

"EVEN NOW, THE **RAMROD** RUNS RAMPANT, CRUSHING ANY WHO MIGHT **RESIST** ME...

"...EMPLOYING HIS MIGHTY **CYBORG** FORM TO ENFORCE **BRODERICK'S LAW**!

"**MY** LAW-- FOR **MY** CITY--**MY** DOMAIN!"

I'VE YET TO LOCATE MY **THIRD** SUCH DEPUTY-- **ANGAR THE SCREAMER...**

...BUT REST ASSURED, HE, TOO, IS ON THE LOOSE-- AND UNDER **MY** CONTROL.

IN A **WORD**, MY OVERLY EMOTIONAL FRIEND: **POWER.**

BUT--**WHY?** WHAT'S THE **REASON** FOR THIS MADNESS--? FOR TAKING MOON DRAGON'S **LIFE?**

"...AND THE **SILENCE** OF MOST OF ITS SO-CALLED 'PUBLIC SERVANTS'.

"YOU SEE, THROUGH MY **LAW FIRM**, I'VE VIRTUALLY **RULED** SAN FRANCISCO FOR **YEARS**, EARNING THE GRATITUDE OF ITS **UNDER-WORLD...**

ELECT JOHNS

YOU SEE, A **GOOD** LAWYER SOON LEARNS THAT THE **LAW** AND A **MAN** ARE MUCH ALIKE.

"BOTH CAN BE BENT--**MANIPULATED**-- TO ONE'S OWN ENDS. AND I USED MY **PARTNERS**, JASON SLOAN AND MATT MURDOCK, IN JUST THAT WAY. THEY NEVER **KNEW.**

"AND THEN **YOU** CAME ALONG--AND EVERYTHING SEEMED TO GO WRONG AT ONCE!

"MURDOCK WOULDN'T PLAY THE **GAME**. HE **REFUSED** TO PLEAD CASES **MY WAY***--AND MY OFFICE BECAME A VERBAL BATTLEGROUND--

*SEE DD/BW #'S 98, 101, 103, 104 - - R.T.

"--JUST AS **YOU** MADE A **REAL** BATTLEGROUND OF THE STREETS, MUCKING UP SOME OF MY MOST **PROFITABLE** OPERATIONS WITH YOUR OBSESSIVE DO-GOODING. YOUR ELIMINATION BECAME A **NECESSITY**...BUT I HAD NOT THE **MEANS** TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

"**UNTIL** I MET MOON DRAGON.

"IRONICALLY, SHE HAD SOUGHT **ME** OUT--ON THE BASIS OF MY **STERLING** REPUTATION.

"SHE NEEDED AN **HONORABLE** MAN TO AID HER IN HER **MISSION**--PROTECTING EARTH FROM THE EVIL **THANOS**.

"AT FIRST, OF COURSE, I BELIEVED HER TO BE **MAD**--UNTIL I SAW THIS UNDERSEA FORTRESS AND HEARD HER STRANGE **STORY**.*

*WHICH **YOU** DID, TOO, LAST ISSUE.. --ROY

"BUT WHEN I REALIZED IT WAS TRUE--THAT SHE REALLY **HAD** COME TO EARTH FROM A MOON OF **SATURN** TO FIGHT THIS THANOS PERSON...

"...I SAW A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO USE **HER** TO DESTROY **YOU**--AND FURTHER MY **OWN** AMBITIONS.

"FOR WHEN I SAW THE TECHNOLOGY SHE POSSESSED, I WAS NO LONGER **CONTENT** WITH **DE FACTO** RULE OF THIS CITY. I WANTED **MORE!**"

I WANTED TO BE **KING** OF SAN FRANCISCO--AN ABSOLUTE MONARCH WITH ABSOLUTE **POWER!**

THE MAN IS *INSANE*-- UTTERLY *INSANE!* BUT AT LEAST HE HASN'T YET REALIZED THAT I AM *MATT MURDOCK*--

--*OR* THAT I'M ABOUT TO *END* HIS REIGN *BE-FORE* IT *BEGINS!*

KERWIN THE FIRST-- KING OF THE GOLDEN GATE! *KNEEL* BEFORE ME, MAN IN RED --

--FOR AFTER MY *JOINING* WITH *TERREX*, I'LL HOLD THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER THIS CITY!

WRONG, "YOUR MAJESTY" --THERE'S NOT GOING TO *BE* ANY "JOINING" -- WHATEVER *THAT* IS!

BUT WE'LL GET YOU A NICE *THRONE* IN A PADDED *CELL* AND--

NO! STAY BACK! I'LL *FIRE!* I *SWEAR* I WILL! I--

ZZAK

AAGH

A PITY. *HE'S* STILL *ALIVE* --BUT THE GUN *ISN'T.*

THAT WAS ITS *LAST CHARGE*--AND A *WEAK* ONE AT THAT.

BUT NO MATTER. HE CAN'T *ESCAPE* FROM THIS PLACE.

I'LL KILL HIM LATER--WHEN I RETURN HERE--AFTER THE *JOINING* WITH *TERREX!*

AND THAT BRINGS US FULL-CIRCLE...BACK TO THE EERIE VERDANT *MONSTER* ON KERWIN J. BRODERICK'S *LAWN...!*

...BACK TO THIS THING CALLED **TERREX**, WHO NOW DISPLAYS FOR ALL AND SUNDRY HIS FRIGHTFUL **FORTE!**

HE...JUST **GESTURED**, AND THE **GARDEN** BECAME A **JUNGLE!**

WHAT **IS** HE?

IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING **TRULY** SO PITIFULLY **MEAGER**, HUMAN?

I AM **TERREX**... HE WHO IS OF THE **EARTH!**

AT MY WHIM, LIVING THINGS **GROW**... OR **DIE.**

TH-THE JUNGLE'S **GONE!**

AN' I'M NOT WAITIN' FOR THE **NEXT** ONE TO **SPROUT!**

NO, HUMAN ... YOU ARE **NOT.**

I'M GONNA **KILL** THIS FREAK O'NATURE BEFORE IT KILLS **US!**

AND **THIS** ...IS **WHY.**

UHH WHAT'S HE-- **DOIN'**-- TO ME??

I AM MERELY TERMINATING YOU...TO PROVE A **POINT:**

"THAT WHAT I **AM** IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE **LIFE-FORCE** ITSELF! I AM NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL. HE WHO CAN **CONTROL** ME, **SHAPES** ME.

BUT MY POWER OVER ANY LIFE-FORM IS **TOTAL.**

I REPEAT --**TOTAL.**

SANDY--DID YOU **SEE** THAT?! THAT POLICEMAN GREW OLDER AND OLDER BEFORE OUR **EYES**--

--UNTIL HE JUST CRUMBLED INTO **DUST!**

KSG

I'VE GOT IT ALL ON **TAPE,** LUCRETIA... BUT DON'T ASK ME TO **EXPLAIN** IT.

WE CAME LOOKING FOR **KRAVEN THE HUNTER** AND **DARE-DEVIL!**

THE MONSTER **SEEMS** TO BE LEAVING PEACEFULLY. WHY NOT CORNER **PAUL CARSON** AND THE **BLACK WIDOW?**

BOTH D.D. AND KRAVEN --**GONE.** BUT WHERE? HOW?

COULD THAT MONSTER HAVE--? **NO!** I WON'T **BELIEVE** IT!

HI, NEWSLADY.

THIS MUST BE A **FIELD DAY** FOR YOU, LUCRETIA JONES--DOING AN ON-THE-SPOT REPORT OF **ARMAGEDDON.**

SKIP THE SARCASM, CARSON. WHERE'S D.D.--AND KRAVEN?

I WISH I **KNEW.**

D.D. VANISHED* --AFTER KRAVEN TOSSED HIM OVER THAT **CLIFF.**

*THANKS TO MOON DRAGON'S TELE-PORT BEAM, LAST ISSUE. --R.T.

AND **KRAVEN** MUST'VE **ESCAPED** DURING THE CONFUSION WITH TERREX.

BUT DON'T LET **THAT** BOTHER YOU, FOLKS.

WE'VE GOT A **BIGGER** PROBLEM. **LOOK--!**

THAT'S THE **PATH** THE MONSTER TOOK AWAY FROM HERE. ONLY **ONE** THING--!

A MINUTE AGO, IT WAS **ALIVE** WITH GRASS AND TREES. AND NOW, IT'S **DEAD.**

WHICH **MEANS...!**

TERREX IS...**ABSORBING** LIFE-ENERGY AS HE WALKS...MAKING HIM-SELF MORE **POWERFUL!**

AND THERES **NO** WAY OF KNOWING **WHY!**

CUT: TO THE DOWNTOWN OFFICE OF A MUCH-HARRIED **POLICE COMMISSIONER O'HARA,** A MAN ATTEMPTING TO **COPE** WITH A CITY GONE MAD.

BLAST IT, MAN--**FIND** A WAY TO BUST THAT FORCE-FIELD--

--OR I'LL FIND A WAY TO BUST OPEN YOUR BLAMED **SKULL!**

DO I MAKE MYSELF **CLEAR?** WELL? HELLO--?

BLASTED INTELLECTUALS! **BOMBS** AND **DEFECTIVE SPACE LABS** THEY CAN BUILD--BUT ONE LOUSY FORCE-FIELD--!

ALL RIGHT, KAWALSKI, WHAT DO **YOU** WANT?

THIS JUST **CAME** FOR YOU, `SIR.

CLAK

YOU BRING ME A CRUMMY **TELEGRAM** AT A TIME LIKE **THIS?**

IT WAS MARKED "**URGENT**", SIR. I--

IS IT ABOUT THE **FORCE-FIELD,** SIR?

SIR...?

NO...IT'S PERSONAL. MY **BROTHER**--FOUND **DEAD** NEAR HIS HOME--IN **AFRICA.**

COULD I HAVE A MOMENT **ALONE,** SON?

HUH--? OH, **SURE**-- I'M SORRY, SIR.

A STUDY IN **OPPOSITES:** O'HARA--STUNNED TO LEARN OF HIS BROTHER'S **DEATH.** DAREDEVIL--EQUALLY SURPRISED HE HIMSELF IS STILL **ALIVE.**

I DON'T **GET** IT. THAT BLAST SHOULD'VE **FINISHED** ME. BUT HERE I **AM**--

--AND I'M NOT **ALONE!**

I CAN HEAR ANOTHER HEARTBEAT-- **BESIDE** ME.

VERY WEAK... AND FRIGHTENINGLY **SLOW**--BUT IT'S UNMISTAKABLY THAT OF--

MOON DRAGON! ALSO STILL ALIVE! BUT--**HOW?**

NO...TIME...MUST HAVE ...**REGENESIS**...TREAT ...MENT. **LAB**...DOWN ...CORRIDOR...!

CAN YOU **GUIDE** ME TO THIS PLACE? ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH?

YES...YES...**HURRY** ...LIFT ME...DON'T BE...A...FRAID--!

OKAY--**EASY** NOW. JUST TELL ME THE WAY...!

SHE'S HANGING ON BY A THREAD--USING HER BODY CONTROL TO **RATION** HER STRENGTH IN TINY **DOSES**...

...WHICH EXPLAINS HOW SHE SURVIVED AT **ALL.** HER NERVOUS SYSTEM REACTED **INSTANTLY** TO BRODERICK'S GUN-BLAST.

BUT NOT WITH A PANIC RESPONSE, AS MOST PEOPLE'S WOULD'VE. HER BODY IS SO HIGHLY DISCIPLINED--

--IT FOUGHT BACK-- INSTINCTIVELY --AND SAVED HER LIFE. SO FAR.

FROM HERE ON...IT'S UP TO ME. I CAN'T LET MYSELF FAIL HER.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT FASCINATES ME. I'VE NEVER--

WHA--? WALL PANEL SLIDING UPWARD. THEN--

THIS IS THE REGENESIS LAB, I GUESS.

I SOUND LIKE A COUNTRY BOY WHO'S JUST SEEN HIS FIRST SKYSCRAPER...!

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M JUST NOT USED TO THINKING IN COSMIC TERMS.

THIS MACHINERY IS LIGHT-YEARS BEYOND ANYTHING ON EARTH--AND I'M NO REED RICHARDS.

IT'S WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

PUT ME... DOWN... THERE.

MOON DRAGON... THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GRASP THIS--

PLEASE... JUST...DO EXACTLY AS... I SAY...

BEGIN...WITH THE... YEL...YELLOW... DIAL...TURN TO...

DARE...DEVIL ...WHAT IS... WRONG? BEGIN...

I-- I CAN'T!!

MOON DRAGON,,, I--I'M **BLIND!** I CAN "SEE" COLORS WITH MY **FINGER-TIPS**--GAUGE THE **HEAT** THEY ABSORB--

--BUT THAT TAKES **TIME!** AND IF I MAKE **ONE** WRONG GUESS--!

SAY,,,NO MORE,,,

COME,,,TO ME ,,,COME **CLOSER...**

THIS,,,WILL,,,REQUIRE **MOST,,,** OF THE STRENGTH,,,LEFT,,, WITHIN ME,,, YET,,,!

I'M **SORRY--** I FEEL SO **HELPLESS--!**

IT IS,,,**MY** FAULT,,,I SHOULD HAVE,,,**KNOWN...**

YAAGH!

WHAT--DID YOU **DO** TO ME? HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S ON **FIRE!**

,,,TO,,, **SAVE** ME,,, YOU MUST ,,,**SEE!**

MY **RADAR SENSE--!** GONE **BLACK!** IT ISN'T **WORKING!**

WHY--**WHY** DID YOU--? **WAIT!**

NO--IT **CAN'T** BE,,,IT'S TOO **INCREDIBLE!**

ARE YOU,,, READY,,, TO **PROCEED,,,?**

YES--**YES!** IT'S **TRUE!** YOU DID IT--!

I CAN SEE!!

QUICKLY,,, GIVE ME THOSE INSTRUCTIONS **AGAIN!** NOW MORE THAN **EVER,,,**

I'VE **GOT** TO SAVE YOU!

THERE--THE REGENESIS RAY IS **FUNCTIONING.** BUT SHE'S SO **STILL--** SO **SILENT!**

WERE WE--TOO **LATE?**

PUT ASIDE YOUR **FEARS,** MAN OF EARTH.

MOON DRAGON LIVES!

THEN WE **WERE** IN TIME! THANK GOD!

LET ME HELP YOU DOWN. YOU MUST **STILL** BE VERY **WEAK.**

NO NEED. I AM **FULLY** RECOVERED.

THEN--MAY I JUST **HOLD** YOU...**WITHOUT** MAKING EXCUSES?

I **OWE** YOU SO MUCH MORE THAN **ANY** MAN COULD EVER HOPE TO REPAY.

A WHOLE WORLD--OF **LIGHT**...AND **HUE**...THAT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EXPERIENCE **AGAIN--!**

PLEASE...NOW IS NOT THE **TIME,** MY--FRIEND.

NOT WHILE THERE IS YET A **CITY** TO BE **SAVED** FROM MY FORMER ALLY'S **MADNESS.**

YOU MEAN... THAT MONSTER **IS** THAT POWERFUL?

YOUR NEWFOUND SIGHT WILL MEAN **NOTHING**--IF **TERREX** DESTROYS ALL THERE IS TO **SEE!**

THERE MAY BE...**NO LIMIT** TO HIS POWER.

COME... **FOLLOW** ME.

*HOWEVER, IN EVERY AREA OF THE SUBSEA FORTRESS, THE SCENE IS THE **SAME**--!*

LOOKS LIKE BRODERICK COVERED EVERY **CONTINGENCY.** THE PLACE IS A **SHAMBLES.**

INDEED. HE LEFT THE **REGENESIS LAB** UNTOUCHED BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT **USELESS** TO YOU.

BUT ANY DEVICE WHICH MIGHT STOP TERREX IS... **RUINED.**

AND YET...THERE IS **ONE** DEVICE HE COULD **NOT** HAVE WRECKED!

THIS PLASTIC **CYLINDER?** I DON'T **UNDERSTAND.**

HOW COULD **THIS** BE USED AS A **WEAPON?**

THE ANSWER **ELUDES** YOU BECAUSE...IT IS TOO **SIMPLE** AFTER ALL YOU HAVE SEEN.

BUT FOR US **--AND** OUR FOE--THIS IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT "WEAPON" OF **ALL.**

THE **TELEPORT MODULE** --OUR MEANS OF **ESCAPE!**

ZOT!

AND, APPROXIMATELY ONE-HUNDREDTH OF A MICROSECOND LATER--!

YOU **DID** IT, MOON DRAGON! WE'RE BACK ON THE SURFACE!

TASHA--? ARE YOU OKAY? DID TERREX TRY TO **HARM** YOU?

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT **ME?**

I'M SAFE-- BUT **YOU--** YOUR **EYES!** I MEAN--

AND **WHO** IS **THAT?**

DAREDEVIL!!

I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY DOWNTOWN--THERE'S NO TIME TO **WASTE!** WE **HAVE** TO GET THERE BEFORE **TERREX** DOES!

SQUAD CAR'S READY WHEN **YOU** ARE, RED.

COME **ON,** SANDY--LET'S **MOVE!** THERE'S AN **EMMY** IN THIS FOR **BOTH** OF **US!**

UM--SANDY, BY THE **WAY...**

DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING... **DIFFERENT** ABOUT D.D.?

THE **LENS PIECES** IN YOUR MASK, HORN-HEAD-- HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO LOSE **THOSE?**

LATER, PAUL! IT'S ...NOT IMPORTANT.

WHAT **IS** OF VITAL IMPORT IS **TERREX**-- THIS MONSTER WHO IS BOTH **LIFE INCARNATE** AND BRINGER OF **DEATH!**

ONWARD, HE TRUDGES, DRAINING THE **LIFE-ENERGY** FROM ALL HE PASSES--DRAWING IT INTO **HIMSELF**-- GROWING EVER **LARGER** --MOVING EVER NEARER THE **CITY!**

NEARER ...THE CENTER OF THE **HUMAN** POPULATION OF SAN FRANCISCO!

SUDDENLY--! ROARING SOUND BEHIND ME...! PERHAPS MY FIRST OPPOSITION?

THERE HE *IS* JANIS. THAT'S THE GUY I GOTTA HELP!

THE VOICE IN MY HEAD *TOLD* ME SO! AN' IT'S *TRUE!*

DAVID--*PLEASE!* YOU'RE RUSHING TOWARD SOME *TERRIBLE* END! I CAN *FEEL* IT!

MADNESS?! I AM NOT MAD! I AM *DAVID ANGAR*--I AM *SANE!*

TURN *BACK* --PLEASE-- AND *FOR-GET* THIS MADNESS!

AND MORE--I AM THE *SCREAMER*-- MASTER OF THE *MIND-STORM!* I AM *POWER!*

ONE FRIEND... ONE *FOE*. I SHALL ACT ACCORDINGLY... FOR THE HOUR OF *JOINING* GROWS NIGH.

THE CITY IS *OURS*, JANIS-- THANKS TO *HIM!* SALUTE HIM WITH ME!

BUT JANIS *CANNOT* SALUTE--OR DO ANYTHING *ELSE*, EITHER. *JANIS IS DEAD.*

VERY DEAD.

CAN YA DIG IT? WITH *HIM* ON MY SIDE, *NO* ENEMY CAN LIVE TO DEFEAT ME.

IN A MOMENT, ANGAR WILL GLANCE TO HIS RIGHT AND LEARN JUST **HOW** TRUE THAT STATEMENT **IS!** WHILE IN **DOWNTOWN** SAN FRANCISCO--

YOU MAY AS WELL **CUT** YOUR **SIREN,** PAUL.

IT'S BUMPER-TO-BUMPER FOR **BLOCKS** AHEAD OF US. WE **CAN'T** GET THRU.

FROM WHAT YOU'VE **TOLD** US--THIS **MUST** BE THE DARK MESSIAH'S WORK--OR THE RAMROD'S, OR **BOTH!**

AND TO **THINK**-- THE WHOLE THING WAS ENGINEERED BY YO--THAT IS, **MATT'S** SENIOR LAW PARTNER!

LET'S **SAVE** THE DISCUSSION OF SUBTLE **IRONIES** FOR **LATER,** SHALL WE--

--AND CONCENTRATE **NOW** ON SOLVING THE CITY'S BURGEONING **TRAFFIC PROBLEM!** ALLEZ-**OOP!**

THAT'S **FRENCH** FOR "UP, UP, AND AWAY!"

I **KNOW.** I LEARNED THE "LANGUAGE OF LOVERS" IN **SPY SCHOOL.**

AND SPEAKING OF **LOVERS...** YOU HAVEN'T **QUITE** EXPLAINED THE **RELATIONSHIP** BETWEEN YOU AND **--BALDY!**

NOT TO **MENTION** HOW YOU GOT YOUR **EYESIGHT** BACK!

I **COULDN'T** TALK ABOUT THAT IN FRONT OF **PAUL--!**

ABOUT YOU AND THAT ALLEGED **WOMAN? WHY??**

TASHA--I **MEANT** ABOUT MY **EYES!** PAUL ISN'T SUPPOSED TO **KNOW** I WAS BLIND!

YOU KNOW, YOU ALMOST SOUND **JEALOUS.**

JEALOUS? DON'T BE SILLY! I'M A FREE-THI--**D.D.--** **LOOK OUT!**

GOOD LORD! WHO **IS** THAT GOLDEN-SKINNED--

:UNNGH!:

HAST THOU SO **SOON** FOR GOTTEN THE **DARK MESSIAH,** DAREDEVIL?

MORDECAI! I'VE-- NEVER **SEEN** HIM BEFORE! HIS WEIRD **APPEARANCE** CAUGHT ME SO OFF-GUARD--

--I **FORGOT** ABOUT HIS **EYE-BEAMS!**

ALLOWETH ME THEN TO **REFRESH** THY FAILED **MEMORY--**

--BY **HOISTING** THEE AND THINE UNCHASTE **COMPANION** ALOFT 'PON THE **LIGHT** THAT SHINETH FROM MINE **EYES!**

AND LET ME SHOWETH YE THE POWER OF **FAITH** --BY **DASHING** YE 'GAINST YON **WALL!**

BLAST! MY RADAR SENSE WOULD'VE SPOTTED THIS MOVE COMING -- THE PECULIAR WAY HE TILTS HIS HEAD BEFORE HE LOOSES HIS ENERGY-BEAMS!

BUT MY EYES AREN'T TRAINED TO--!

D.D. -- I CAN'T-- STAND THIS CRUSHING FORCE ANY LONGER!

THAT'S OKAY, LADY--YA WON'T HAVE TA!

WA-BOOM!

YER BEIN' RESCUED --BY THE RAMROD-- YER KNIGHT WITH THE BUILT-IN SHININ' ARMOR!

HIS GRIP --ALMOST AS PAINFUL AS THE DARK MESSIAH'S EYE-BEAMS!

YEAH, I'M RESCUIN' YOU AWRIGHT! RESCUIN' YOU TA DEATH!

NO MORE PLAYIN' HOLY, MESSIAH! KILL 'EM!

HIS AURA IS GROWING MORE INTENSE! HE'S PREPARING TO--

LET HIM PREPARE! WE'LL--

YE SHALL DO NAUGHT BUT DIE, UNCLEAN ONES!

BACKFLIP, D.D.! OUT OF HIS WAY-- NOW!!

ZAM!

RIGHT ON, SPIDER-LADY! I-- :UNNGH=

NO! MY DEPTH PERCEPTION IS 'WAY OFF, TOO!

THOU ART **DOOMED,** DEVIL-SPAWN!

THE FATHER HATH ROBBED THEE OF THINE **AGILITY** WHEN THOU NEEDEST IT **MOST!**

THE SICK THING IS-- HE'S **RIGHT!** NOW THAT I CAN **SEE**-- :UNH!=

MAYHAP **THOU** ART PUZZLED --BUT NOT **I!**

'TIS **HIS** DIVINE WILL THAT THOU **PERISH** AT HIS SON'S HANDS!

AND PERISH THOU **SHALT** --E'ER ANOTHER MOMENT PASSETH!

MORDECAI-- NO!!

TURN, DARK MESSIAH--AND MEET THE ONE WHO IS **TRULY** YOUR **MAKER!**

AND KNOW AT LAST--YOU ARE **SAVED!** YOUR EVIL SHALL BE NO MORE!

NAY! I AM **HOLY!** I AM HEAVEN-SENT! I HAVE A **DUTY** TO--

--AAGHH!!

Y-YOU'VE **CHANGED** HIM--BACK TO THE INNOCENT YOUTH HE **ONCE** WAS!

A **SIMPLE** MATTER, REALLY--A RESHUFFLING OF HIS INTRAFORM MOLECULAR MIGRATION.

A **PITY** IT WILL NOT WORK ON TERREX OR RAMROD.

MOON DRAGON--IF THAT'S **TRUE** --IF YOU **CAN'T** DISPOSE OF THEM THIS EASILY--

--I HAVE A **FAVOR** TO ASK OF YOU!

I WANT YOU... TO MAKE ME **BLIND** AGAIN.

DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, OKAY? WITHOUT MY **HYPER-SENSES**-- I JUST CAN'T **FUNCTION** AS **DAREDEVIL!**

AND IT'S **IMPERATIVE** NOW THAT I **DO** FUNCTION. THERE ARE **LIVES** AT STAKE.

ARE YOU **CERTAIN?** WHAT IF I CANNOT **REVERSE-?**

IT... DOESN'T **MATTER** NOW. I'VE SEEN **NATASHA.** THAT'S WHAT I WANTED MOST OF ALL...

VERY WELL, THEN... YOU SHALL DWELL ONCE MORE IN **SHADOW.** BUT, PLEASE, DAREDEVIL--RECALL THE SIGHT OF **ME,** ALSO.

THAT'S SOMETHING... I COULD **NEVER** FORGET. YOU--MOON DRAGON, WHAT--?

ARE YOU **CRYING,** GIRL?

N-NO... IT IS **NOTHING** --AT ALL.

ARE YOU **SURE?** I--THE **LIGHT!** **FADING--!**

--**GONE!** BUT MY **RADAR SENSE** IS **BACK**--SHARP AS EVER!

SHARPER. I...OWED YOU THAT MUCH.

I CAN **TELL** YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ...BUT **THANKS,** MOON DRAGON. I **MEAN** THAT.

HANG ON, TASHA! I'M COMING!

"HANG ON," HE SAYS! **HA!**

WHEN THE **RAMROD'S** DONE WITH YA --YA WON'T HAVE NUTHIN' TA HANG ON **WITH!**

AN' YA CAN **FERGIT** THEM **WIDOW'S STINGS,** LADY! I DON'T EVEN **FEEL** 'EM!

NO? THEN **MAYBE--**

HEY--!

--JUST **MAYBE** --YOU'LL FEEL **THIS!** SEE, YOU HAVE TO **CATCH** ME BEFORE YOU CAN **DISMEMBER** ME!

FRUSTRATING, ISN'T IT--FOR A BIG STRONG MAN LIKE YOU?

ONLY I WON'T **LET** YOU CATCH ME!

BACK ON THE **OIL RIG*,** LADY, WE HAD A **WORD** FOR YER KINDA DAME!

=TCH TCH= NASTY, **NASTY!** YOU WOULDN'T CALL ME EVIL **NAMES** WOULD YOU?

I MEAN--I **BLUSH** AT SUCH WORDS IN MIXED COMPANY.

*RAMMY EARNED HIS NAME AS BOSS OF AN OFF-SHORE OIL RIG. --ROY.

SHE'S ABSOLUTELY **RIGHT,** RAMMY! NOW, YOU **APOLOGIZE--!**

BETTER YET--JUST **SHUT UP** AND GO **AWAY!**

AW! DID WAMWOD **TWIP** ON BIWWY CWUB CABLE?

WHY, YOU CRUMMY--!

NOBODY LAUGHS AT THE RAMROD!

YER GONNA PAY FER THEM HA-HA'S, PAL! YER GONNA PAY TILL IT HURTS--

--AN' THEN SOME!

AN' HERE COMES "THE MAN" TA COLLECT THE FIRST INSTALLMENT, HORN-HEAD!

WHA--? NO-- IT CAN'T BE! THAT'S BRODERICK... AND TERREX... BUT--!

LOOK, TERREX-- OUR HEROIC FRIENDS SEEM A BIT SURPRISED AT HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN!

WHY, THEY HAVEN'T EVEN NOTICED--

--THE EMPTINESS IN YOUR EYES-- SIGNIFYING MY TOTAL CONTROL OVER YOU!

OR HOW YOUR FEATURES AND FORM HAVE BECOME MOLTEN IN PREPARATION FOR THE JOINING!

I'LL WAGER THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THIS CITY HAS BUT AN HOUR TO LIVE--

--UNLESS I AM CROWNED KING OF SAN FRANCISCO!

BRODERICK-- YOU'RE MAD! YOU CAN'T HOPE TO DESTROY US ALL!

OR CAN HE--?

NEXT: THE CONCLUSION! FEATURING THE SENSATIONAL CAPT. MARVEL AND AN ENDING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

BE HERE--?

DAREDEVIL

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DAREDEVIL®

AND THE

BLACK WIDOW™

WHAT'S THIS?? MATT MURDOCK.. GOING INTO ACTION WITHOUT HIS COSTUME?

HE HAS *NO CHOICE*-- IN THE STORY WE CALL

BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!

GUEST-STARRING: THE ONE AND ONLY

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!

IT IS TIME, MASTER. I AM ENTERING... MELDING PHASE!

EXCELLENT, TERREX! DID YOU HEAR THAT, DAREDEVIL? IN MOMENTS--

I--KERWIN J. BRODERICK-- WILL HOLD ABSOLUTE POWER OVER SAN FRANCISCO!

DO YOU CRAVE ACTION...SUSPENSE... MYSTERY...OR EVEN RUN O' THE MILL COSMIC WONDER? THEN HANG TIGHT, MARVELITE, AND READ ON! THIS ONE'S GOT 'EM ALL!

AN' THAT MEANS YOU'VE HAD IT, HORN-HEAD!

DON'T ATTACK HIM, D.D.-- IT'D BE SUICIDE!

CAN THAT BE WORSE THAN WHAT HE HAS IN MIND FOR US?

BIG RED'S GOT A POINT THERE, WIDOW!

STEVE GERBER WROTE IT! | BOB BROWN DREW IT! | SAL BUSCEMA INKED IT! | C. JETTER LETTERED IT! P. GOLDBERG COLORED IT | ROY THOMAS EDITED IT! | NOW IT'S YOUR TURN-- READ IT!!

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LISTEN TO THEIR MINDLESS **PRATTLE**, TERREX! AT **LAST**, THEY SEE HOW INCONSEQUENTIAL THEY **ARE!**

THEY **FEAR** US--WHICH IS AS IT **SHOULD** BE!

I AM IN MELDING PHASE **NOW**, MASTER!

MOON DRAGON! WHAT'S THIS "**MELDING**" BUSINESS?

TERREX IS A CREATURE WITHOUT A **SOUL**--A CONSCIOUSNESS OF HIS **OWN**. WHEN BRODERICK BROUGHT HIM INTO **BEING**--

--HE CREATED A **MIND-LINK** BETWEEN HIMSELF AND TERREX, ENABLING THE MONSTER TO **MOVE** AND **THINK**.

THE MELDING WILL MAKE THAT LINK **COMPLETE.**

Y-YOU MEAN--THEY'LL BECOME A **SINGLE ENTITY?**

CORRECT, DAREDEVIL! WATCH NOW--AS TERREX OPENS FOR ME THE **GATEWAY!**

THIS IS THE **FINAL PHASE!**

THAT PURE PULSATING **ENERGY** IS HIS DISTILLED **LIFE ESSENCE!**

AND NOW **I** SHALL BECOME **PART** OF IT--NAY, **ONE** WITH IT!

IT MUST BE **TRUE!** THE MONSTER'S SO **STIFF**-- SO **STILL!**

BUT TERREX DOES NOT REMAIN SO FOR LONG--!

WATCH, YOU FOOLS! TRY TO BELIEVE YOUR **SENSES!**

SUDDENLY, THERE IS AWARENESS IN ITS EYES--!

LOOK! SEE ITS FEATURES **MOULD** AND **CHANGE!**

AND THEN, THE UNTHINKABLE OCCURS--!

HE IS BECOMING **ME**--AND **I** AM BECOMING **HE!**

WE ARE ONE!!

NOW HEAR ME, SAN FRANCISCO! THIS CITY HAS BUT ONE HOUR TO CROWN ME ITS KING--

--BEFORE I EMPLOY MY POWER TO SUCK THE VERY LIFE FROM ALL WHO DWELL HERE! THIS IS NO IDLE THREAT!

THE CITY SUBMITS-- OR IT DIES!

REMEMBER--I CAN KILL A HUNDRED CITIES IF NECESSARY--FOUND MY KINGDOM ANYWHERE--

--WHILE EACH OF YOU HAS BUT ONE CHANCE--ONE CHOICE--BETWEEN SURVIVAL AND EXTINCTION!

THAT DOES IT!

DARE-DEVIL-- NO!!

WHY NOT? WHAT HAVE I --WHAT HAS ANYBODY-- GOT TO LOSE NOW?

EITHER WE TRY, AT LEAST, TO STOP THAT MANIAC--OR WE BECOME HIS SUBJECTS! OR WE COULD JUST LIE DOWN AND DIE!

I GUESS I'M JUST NOT THE LAYING-DOWN TYPE!

HEADS UP, KING KONG! HERE COMES--

AAGH!

YOU TRULY ARE A FOOL, AREN'T YOU?

UNNGH

SO--WEAK--! WHAT DID HE--DO TO ME?

WAIT-- SOMETHING'S WRONG--!

MY LEGS!!

I CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS! THEY'RE NUMB--COLD--!

D.D.--WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S THE *MATTER?* WHY DON'T YOU GET *UP?*

BECAUSE HE *CAN'T!* HE'S PARALYZED!

I *TRIED* TO WARN HIM--DIRECT *CONTACT* WITH TERREX CAN BE *FATAL!* YOU SEEM TO *FORGET*--

--TERREX IS A PIECE OF THIS *PLANET*--THE EMBODIMENT OF PART OF ITS *LIFE-FORCE!*

AND AS SUCH, HE WIELDS *TOTAL-POWER* OVER ANY-THING THAT *LIVES!*

HE CAN *STRENGTHEN* IT--OR *CRIPPLE* IT--*RENEW* IT--OR *DESTROY* IT!

I *PURPOSELY* SPARED YOU *THIS* TIME, IMBECILE! THE PARALYSIS WILL SHORTLY *DEPART!*

BUT LET THIS SERVE TO ILLUSTRATE HOW *HELPLESS* YOU ARE AGAINST ME.

AND BE *FOREWARNED,* MAN WITHOUT FEAR--

--*ANOTHER* SUCH DISPLAY OF FOOLISH HEROICS WILL COST YOU YOUR *LIFE!*

HURRY-- LET'S MOVE HIM TO A PLACE OF *SAFETY!*

TASHA-- BRING HIM HERE --TO THE *SQUAD CAR.*

THUS, HEEDING LT. PAUL CARSON'S SUGGESTION--!

THERE, NOW-- TRY TO *REST* --GET YOUR *STRENGTH* BACK! AND DON'T *WORRY.*

WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE AT *TERREX* --YOU'LL *SEE!*

UH-HUH. AND WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT *GOOD* IT'LL DO?

NONE-- MASKED MAN-- IF YOU KEEP TALKING LIKE *THAT!*

OH, *RIGHT!* YOU *BET!* THE WHOLE PROBLEM IS MY *ATTITUDE!* I SHOULD BE MORE *POSITIVE!*

WELL, YOU CAN *SHOVE* THE *PEP TALK,* CARSON!

WHAT *I* WANT TO KNOW IS--HOW CAN A GLORIFIED *ACROBAT* FIGHT A *GOD* GONE *MAD?*

NOW THAT WE'RE UP TO DATE ON MATT (D.D.) MURDOCK AND KERWIN BRODERICK--LET'S LOOK IN ON THE OTHER PARTNER IN THEIR RAPIDLY-DISSOLVING LAW-FIRM--!

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, MR. SLOAN! THAT THING ---IS MY EMPLOYER!

AND MY FORMER MENTOR, JANET ---THE MAN I ADMIRED-- SO MUCH.

MATT WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM--ALL ALONG.

HE'S INSANE-- NO, WORSE THAN INSANE--HE'S A POWER HUNGRY MENACE TO ANYTHING THAT BREATHES!

AND AS MUCH AS ANYONE, I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING HIM GET THIS FAR!

MY LOYALTY TO HIM BLINDED ME! I LET HIM USE ME ALL THIS TIME--

--LET HIM MAKE ME A TOOL OF HIS MAD AMBITIONS!

BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN--

BLAST IT-- I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! EVEN BLIND MATT DID!

BUT NOT JASON SLOAN! NO, NOT ME! I HAD TO WAIT-- HAD TO SEE MY WHOLE CAREER FALL APART BEFORE MY EYES--

--BEFORE I COULD ADMIT I'D BEEN PLAYED FOR A PRIZE CHUMP!

BRODERICK'S RUINED ME, JANET!

ALL I'VE WORKED FOR--STRIVED FOR-- --THE FIRM--MY PROFESSION--MY FORTUNE--

--IT'S ALL A JOKE NOW-- A MOUND OF ASHES! ASHES!

MR. SLOAN--WAIT! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO-- SO AGITATED!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I--I DON'T KNOW. BUT I HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE-- DO SOME-THING...

AND, WHILE WE WONDER WHAT JASON MEANS BY THAT--

...LET'S REJOIN THE REST OF THE GOOD GUYS AT THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER "IRONGUTS" O'HARA!

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO TAKE THE WORD OF THIS--THIS BALD *PSYCHO*--WHO SAYS SHE'S FROM *OUTER SPACE*--

--THAT *TERREX* CAN'T BE STOPPED--THAT WE HAVE TO *SURRENDER*?

CALM *DOWN*, CHIEF! WE--

DON'T TELL *ME* TO CALM DOWN, CARSON! WHY SHOULD *I* HAVE TO KEEP A COOL HEAD WHEN EVERYBODY *ELSE* HAS GONE CRAZY?

I'LL *TELL* YOU WHY: BECAUSE *LUNACY* IS A LUXURY WE CAN'T *AFFORD* IN THIS BUSINESS, LIEUTENANT!

AND THAT INCLUDES *YOU*, TOO, HORN-HEAD--*AND* YOUR GANG OF *ZANIES*!

SO LET ME *KNOW*, WILL YOU, WHEN YOU'VE ALL COME TO YOUR *SENSES*!

I'LL BE IN THE *COMMISSARY* KEEPING COMPANY WITH A *HAMBURGER*!

Y'KNOW--HE'S *RIGHT*. I MEAN, WE *DO* MAKE A WEIRD-LOOKING BUNCH--AND IF *WE* CAME TO *ME* WITH THIS STORY--!

CAN'T SEE THE HUMOR, HUH--?

I GUESS O'HARA *DID* COME DOWN A LITTLE *HARD*, BUT--*WHOA*!

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

WHAT *IS* IT, PAUL?

A *TELEGRAM*--AND THE *REASON* O'HARA CAME ON SO STRONG.

HIS KID BROTHER'S BEEN *KILLED*--MURDERED IN *AFRICA*.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS, HUH? IT'S BARELY BEEN A YEAR SINCE HIS *WIFE* WAS KILLED BY A BULLET MEANT FOR *HIM*!

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO *FORGIVE* HIS VERBAL *BLITZKRIEG*.

BUT THAT *STILL* DOESN'T SOLVE OUR *PROBLEM*.

AND SPEAKING OF *PROBLEMS*--HOW ARE YOUR *LEGS*?

A LITTLE *STIFF* YET--BUT JUST ABOUT BACK TO *NORMAL*, I THINK.

AND IT'S FORTUNATE THAT'S SO, FOR ONE MOMENT LATER, O'HARA'S AIDE KOWALSKI BURSTS ON THE SCENE WITH A--

NEWS FLASH, HEROES: THE CAVALRY'S ARRIVED! TERREX IS IN GOLDEN GATE PARK, TANGLING WITH--

--CAPTAIN MARVEL!

WHA-A-A-T? COME ON YOU THREE! WE CAN GET THERE FASTEST IN O'HARA'S COPTER!

LEAD THE WAY, PAUL--THIS MAY BE THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR!

WHILE, IN GOLDEN GATE PARK..

SO THE TITANS THEMSELVES SENT YOU TO STOP ME, DID THEY? THE FOOLS!

HAVE THEY SO SOON FORGOTTEN-- MINE IS THE ULTIMATE POWER?

HARDLY! NOR DID THEY FORGET THAT YOU MUST FOCUS ON A TARGET TO USE THAT POWER!

I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND I'M MOVING TOO FAST FOR YOU TO DO THAT.

CORRECT! SPEED IS NOT MY FORTÉ. ERGO--

RAMROD! DO WHAT YOU MUST TO REMOVE OUR SPACE-BORN FRIEND!

I HEAR YA TALKIN', BOSS! THIS OUGHTTA BE GOOD FER A FEW LAUGHS.

HEY, BLONDIE-- HOWZIT FEEL, GETTIN' HIT BY A GUY WITH A STEEL-PLATED SKULL?

I AM--*IMPRESSED* WITH YOUR RAW *STRENGTH*, CYBORG!

BUT YOUR UNCEASING *BLUSTER* REVEALS TO ME A SOUL RIDDLED WITH *DOUBT*.

THWA-KK

WHADDAYA *KNOW!* HE AIN'T JUST A *HERO*--HE'S A *SHRINK*, TOO!

WELL, GET *THIS*, CAPTAIN FREUD-- AN' GET IT *GOOD!*

THE ONLY THING I DOUBT IN THIS WHOLE BLAMED *WORLD*--

--IS WHETHER *YOU* CAN STAND UP TA ME MORE'N A COUPLE MINUTES *LONGER!*

SEE WHAT I *MEAN*, PAL?

CLUD!

I SEE ONLY-- UNDIRECTED, *INEFFECTUAL* VIOLENCE.

YOU SHOULD TALK! YOU AIN'T LANDED A SOLID BLOW SINCE WE *STARTED* THIS BASH.

PERHAPS --I DON'T *NEED* TO.

PERHAPS *YOU'LL* DO IT *FOR* ME!

YOU CRUMMY *CLOWN!* THAT AIN'T *FAIR*-- TURNIN' MY OWN POWER *AGAINST* ME!

BRACKSH!

ON THE *CONTRARY*, BRUTE--IT'S THE FAIREST WAY OF *ALL*.

THUNK

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH-- :UNNGH:

YOU RAN RIGHT *INTO* THAT, RAMROD.

LET'S END THIS *QUICKLY*, RAMROD.

FOLLOW ME-- *IF* YOU CAN-- INTO THE *STREETS*.

IF I CAN?? YER TALKIN' TO A GUY WHOSE BONES ARE SOLID STEEL! YER TALKIN' TO--

...THE RAMROD!

I'M TALKING TO A POMPOUS, OVER-BEARING BRAGGART --AN INFANT PLAYING AT MANHOOD.

E.J.PEABODY PRINTING STATIONERY

THAT DOES IT!

YOU'RE A THING TO BE PITIED!

AN' YER DEAD --UNLESS YOU MOVE FAST, CRUMB! AN' IF YOU DON'T--

--I'LL LIKE IT EVEN BETTER!

'CAUSE IT'LL GIMME THE PLEASURE O' MAKIN' PULP OUTTA YA!

SEE, I DON'T TAKE TALK LIKE YOURS FROM NO--HEY!

MY EYES!

KTANG

THEM BLASTED BRACELETS! YA SLAPPED 'EM TOGETHER--AN' THE LIGHT--

--LIKE A HUNNERT FLASHBULBS GOIN' OFF ALL AT ONCE! CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOIN'!

AN' I CAN'T STOP MYS--

WA-BOOM!

WOW! HE'S OUT COLD!

Y'KNOW, MARVELL, FOR A GUY WHO'S MORE OR LESS COMMITTED TO NON-VIOLENCE--

--YOU CAUSE MORE MAYHEM THAN ANYBODY I KNOW.

I DON'T GET IT--WHERE'D CAPTAIN MARVEL GO?

HE'S OFF IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE, MR. INNOCENT BYSTANDER--OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE!

THAT'S ME--RICK JONES, SUPERHERO SURROGATE!

AND AFTER A HARROWING BOUT LIKE *THAT*, I CAN USE SOME *REFRESHMENT*.

WHAT'LL IT *BE*, KID-- "D.D. CHERRY," "WIDOW LICORICE," OR, "TERREX LIME"?

FUNNY--HOW IT'S STILL "BUSINESS-AS-USUAL" FOR MOST FOLKS-- EVEN DESPITE *TERREX'S* THREAT.

I TAKE THAT BACK.

JUST MAKE IT *VANILLA* --TWO SCOOPS.

NO SENSE OF *HUMOR*, HUH? THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU *KIDS*!

RICK!

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!* THE *REAL* BATTLE-- AGAINST *TERREX*-- HAS YET TO BE FOUGHT!

OH. IT'S *YOU*.

RICK!! YOU'VE *GOT* TO CALL ME *BACK*--!

DON'T WORRY, I WILL --*AFTER* WE'VE BOTH HAD A CHANCE TO *RELAX*.

--AND BEFORE THAT, MY *METAMORPHOSIS*.* I SUPPOSE YOU'RE *RIGHT*, LAD.

WE'VE BEEN ON THE *MOVE* SINCE THE *KREE JEWELS* CASE, MAN..*

* MARVEL TEAM-UP #15 & 16
** CAPT. MARVEL #29.--R.T.

OF COURSE, I'M-- *WRONG*!

THAKATHAKAT

THAT'S A *HELICOPTER*-- HEADIN' THIS WAY! AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS--

--IT'S CARRYIN' A GUY CALLED--

DAREDEVIL! THAT'S WHERE CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS LAST *SIGHTED*!

BACK OFF, KID. POLICE AND SUPERHEROES *ONLY*!

B-BUT-- OH, *SKIP* IT.

TAKE 'ER DOWN, PAUL. LET'S HAVE A *LOOK*.

*THE CROWD CHEERS WILDLY AS THE WHIRLYBIRD AND ITS COLORFUL **PASSENGERS** EMERGE--BUT THE GRIMNESS OF THE MOMENT IS **LOUDER** BY FAR--!*

THEY *SAID* CAPTAIN MARVEL JUST DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR.

YOU THINK HE COULD BE *BURIED* IN THERE--?

I'LL LET D.D. *SNOOP* A BIT BEFORE I CALL ON *MAR-VELL*.

SINCE WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT D.D. WILL FIND, LET'S FOCUS ON A DIFFERENT SCENE --A DESERTED ALLEYWAY, ELSEWHERE IN SAN FRANCISCO--

--A MAN NAMED DAVID ANGAR--

--AND THE SHRIVELLED CORPSE OF HIS WOMAN!

HE KILLED YOU! TERREX KILLED YOU!*

I WAS COMING TO JOIN HIM-- TO ANSWER HIS CALL-- TO HELP HIM RULE THIS CITY--!

*LAST ISSUE.--ROY.

AND YET-- HE KILLED YOU--TORE THE VERY LIFE FROM YOU!

IT'S SO SENSELESS-- SO WRONG!

YOU NEVER HURT HIM!

I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO YOU --BELIEVED YOU! THIS WASN'T THE WAY--!

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

I ONLY WANTED A BETTER WORLD!

A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE COULD BREATHE AND LOVE AND DREAM WITHOUT FEAR!

A WORLD WHERE CHILDREN COULD SING AND LAUGH AND--!

OH, NO. DEAR LORD--NO! JANIS!

JANIS!!

SHE'S-- TURNED TO ASHES! LIKE OUR HOPES! LIKE OUR DREAMS!

FOR A MOMENT, ANGAR SITS MOTIONLESS, HIS MIND REELING--!

AND THEN HE BOLTS!

HE'LL PAY FOR THIS, JANIS! I'LL MAKE HIM PAY! I'M STILL--

--ANGAR, THE SCREAMER-- MASTER OF THE MIND STORM!

AND BACK AT YE OLDE PRINT SHOPPE--!

NOTHING. RAMROD'S ON ICE, BUT NO SIGN OF CAPTAIN MARVEL.

WE'LL HAVE TO TACKLE TERREX OUR-SELVES!

THAT, MY FRIEND WOULD BE UTTER MADNESS.

DISTASTEFUL AS IT IS TO US ALL-- WE MUST SURRENDER TO HIM--LEST HE MAKE GOOD HIS THREAT AND MURDER THIS METROPOLIS.

THERE IS MORE AT ISSUE HERE THAN OUR PRIDE, DAREDEVIL. SURRENDER NOW WILL BUY US TIME TO DEFEAT HIM LATER,

AND IT MAY SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES, AS WELL.

I'M AFRAID SHE'S RIGHT, D.D.

WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO?

WHEN I SUGGESTED SURRENDER HALF AN HOUR AGO---IT WAS UNTHINKABLE. AND NOW--!

LOOK, I CAN'T GO FOR THIS "GIVE IN NOW --WIN LATER" BIT. WE'RE DEALING WITH A MANIAC, REMEMBER??

HE'LL WIPE US OUT AT THE FIRST HINT OF REBELLION--AND IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL BE LIVING AS SLAVES TO HIS WHIM!

HORN-HEAD REALLY MEANS IT! HE'S READY TO CHARGE RIGHT IN, ALL ALONE--LIKE THIS WAS A PERSONAL GRUDGE FIGHT!

WELL, HE'LL GET HIS CHANCE TO CHARGE, ALL RIGHT--BUT HE WON'T BE FLYING SOLO--NO WAY!

'CAUSE IT'S TIME TO SLAP THE NEGA-BANDS TOGETHER AND RING IN--

--CAPTAIN MARVEL! AND JUST IN TIME, RICK!

WHOA! RADAR SENSE PICKING UP SOMEONE LEAPING TOWARD US--OVER THE CROWD!

COULD BE AN ATTACK--!

WHOEVER HE IS--HE'S A LIVING **POWERHOUSE!** JUDGING FROM HIS HEART-BEAT--HIS **PHYSIQUE**--HIS **STRENGTH** MUST BE ALMOST **SUPERHUMAN.**

IDENTIFY YOURSELF, MISTER, OR--

IDENTIFY--? IS THAT YOUR **CUSTOMARY** GREETING FOR A **FRIEND,** EARTH-MAN?

D.D.,-- THIS IS **CAPTAIN MARVEL!**

HUH--? I-- DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. SORRY.

OH, **MAN!** MY BLINDNESS NEARLY COST US AN **ALLY!**

FORGIVE THE TERRAN, CAPTAIN. HE'S BEEN UNDER **SEVERE** STRAIN!

TELL ME-- WERE YOU SENT BY THE TITANS--BY **MENTOR** AND **EROS?**

YOU **KNOW** ABOUT TITAN? THEN IT'S **TRUE**-- YOU **ARE** MOON DRAGON!

THE TITANS WERE SURPRISED --AND **PLEASED**--

--TO LEARN YOU MIGHT STILL BE **ALIVE!**

WAIT--YOU MEAN HER STORY'S FOR **REAL?!** SHE REALLY **IS** FROM ANOTHER PLANET--A MOON OF **SATURN** CALLED **TITAN?**

THAT'S THE ONLY PART OF THIS I COULDN'T **BELIEVE** --THAT THE **SCOPE** OF THE CONFLICT--

COULD BE SO-- BIG.

BIG ENOUGH TO MENACE A **GALAXY,** BLACK WIDOW--AND ALL THE DOING OF **ONE MAN**--

--**THANOS!** THE EVIL **SON** OF **MENTOR,** TITAN'S FORMER **RULER!**

"THANOS **HIMSELF** NOW RULES WHAT LITTLE IS **LEFT** OF TITAN'S ONCE-BURGEONING **CULTURE**--AND HE RULES BY **FORCE** ALONE--

"--THE SAME WAY HE **GAINED** THE THRONE!

"**WEAPONS** WERE **UNKNOWN** ON TITAN UNTIL THANOS BROUGHT THEM--

"--UNTIL HE USED THEM TO **WIPE OUT** THE WORK OF CENTURIES SPENT IN PURSUIT OF **HIGHER** IDEALS THAN **EMPIRE.**

"NOR DID HE STOP THERE. WITH HIS HORDE OF INTERSTELLAR WARRIORS HE HAS GONE ON TO SEIZE OTHER WORLDS--UNTIL NOW--

"--HE IS HERE ON EARTH, SEEKING TO SUBJUGATE ITS PEOPLE--AND SEARCHING FOR THE COSMIC CUBE!

"AS FOR TERREX--HE, OR RATHER IT, WAS THE CREATION OF A TITAN SCIENTIST--TO BE USED AS A DOOMSDAY WEAPON.

"WERE THANOS TO WIN, TERREX WOULD HAVE BEEN LOOSED--TO DESTROY ALL LIFE ON TITAN--

"--TO ROB THE VICTOR OF HIS SPOILS. BUT THANOS STRUCK TOO FAST--TOO SOON--!

"THE SCIENTIST DIED BEFORE HE COULD UNLEASH HIS MONSTER. AND ONLY ONE OTHER ON ALL TITAN UNDERSTOOD THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE LIFE-CREATURE."

I--WHO UNTHINKINGLY BROUGHT TO EARTH AN INDESTRUCTIBLE MENACE!

NOT SO! ANYTHING--EVEN TERREX CAN BE DESTROYED BY ITS DIAMETRICAL OPPOSITE.

TERREX, A BEING OF PURE LIFE, CAN BE FELLED BY--UN-LIFE!

IT'S COMPARABLE TO THE MATTER/ANTI-MATTER CONCEPT--ONE CANCELS OUT THE OTHER.

YOU'VE--LOST ME COMPLETELY! ISN'T DEATH THE OPPOSITE OF LIFE?

AGAIN, WIDOW--NO. DEATH IS MERELY THE ABSENCE OF LIFE--JUST AS A VACUOUS VOID IS THE ABSENCE OF MATTER--NOT ITS TRUE OPPOSITE!

YES--YES, I CAN SEE THAT. BUT WHAT IS UN-LIFE?

TO ONE WHO HASN'T SEEN THE UNIVERSE BEYOND THIS SPHERE--IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE--

--AND, FOR NOW, UNOBTAINABLE. YET, THERE IS STILL HOPE--IF WE CONCENTRATE ON TERREX'S ONLY OTHER WEAKNESS!

THE HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS OF KERWIN BRODERICK!

THAT IS THE KEY--DEFEAT BRODERICK, AND WE DEFEAT TERREX!

AND SO--D.D., THE WIDOW, MOON DRAGON AND CAPTAIN MARVEL CONCEIVE A DARING **PLAN**--

--A PLAN DESTINED TO BE IMMEASURABLY **ENHANCED** BY THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE IN GOLDEN GATE PARK OF--

SLOAN! JASON SLOAN! GOOD TO SEE YOU, MY BOY! WHAT **BRINGS** YOU?

I'VE COME.. TO **STOP** YOU, KERWIN! I'VE **GOT** TO STOP YOU!

YOU SEE, I **BELIEVED** IN YOU--**FOUGHT** FOR YOU. AND **NOW**--!

POLICE LIN

YOU'VE MADE A **MOCKERY** OF ME-- OF MY CAREER-- OF MY **LIFE!**

BAM **BAM**

AND I **HAVE** TO KILL YOU FOR THAT, KERWIN. **KILL YOU!!** OH--NO.

BULLETS DON'T **HURT** YOU--?

YOU PITIFUL **DUNCE!** I'M NO LONGER THE MAN YOU KNEW! I'M **IMMORTAL!** I'M A **KING!** I **OWN** YOU!

THEN--I **BEG** YOU--DON'T LET ME **LIVE!** TAKE **MY** LIFE-- **NOW!**

I HELPED **CREATE** YOU-- I **DESERVE** TO DIE AT YOUR HAND!

JASON, JASON, **JASON**--YOU ALWAYS **DID** AMUSE ME!

BUT **NEVER** MORE THAN **NOW!** DON'T **STOP,** BOY! GO ON!

PRETEND I'M A **JURY!** ENTER YOUR **PLEA** OF--

wha...?

THAT'S ENOUGH, JASON. **STAND UP!**

YOU HEARD ME, PARTNER-- **OFF YOUR KNEES**--UP ON YOUR FEET!

AND I MEAN **NOW!**

M-MATT--? IS THAT-- **YOU?**

MURDOCK!!

YOU DARE CONFRONT ME--YOU, A BLIND MAN, HAVE THE TEMERITY--!

MARVEL WAS RIGHT! HE'S TOO INFURIATED EVEN TO KILL ME! NOW IF WE CAN JUST KEEP HIM--

WAIT! SOMEONE ELSE RUNNING UP! OH NO--!

I'D KNOW THAT HEARTBEAT ANYWHERE! IT'S GOT TO BE--

ANGAR!!

LOOSE YOUR FULL ILLUSION POWER ON MURDOCK!

RIP HIS MIND TO SHREDS-- NOW!!

NO WAY, YOU LOUSY, MURDERING GREEN PIG!

YOU KILLED JANIS-- AND HERE'S WHERE YOU PAY!

SO SAYING, ANGAR SCREAMS--A TORMENTED, ANGUISHED CRY--

--THAT SENDS PERCEPTION INTO SPASMS!

DON'T KNOW WHY ANGAR'S TURNED AGAINST BRODERICK --AND I DON'T CARE!

BECAUSE AS OF NOW, IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME!

AND I'M UP AT BAT!!

ANGAR! WHERE IS HE? WHERE?

TRAITOR! QUISLING! I'LL KILL YOU WHEN I FIND YOU!

MATT-- LOOK! HE'S TOTTERING!

OF COURSE! HE WAS MAD BEFORE HIS MELDING WITH TERREX! THIS NEW STRAIN ON HIM--

GOTCHA, M.D.! WE HAVE TO DRIVE HIM UP THE PROVERBIAL WALL!

HOPE MARVEL WAS ALSO RIGHT ABOUT HIS HAVING TO FOCUS HIS LIFE-DRAINING POWER!

EVER SEE A BLIND MAN DO THIS BEFORE, KERWIN?

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T BE BEATING ME! YOU'RE FLEAS NEXT TO ME!

THE HALA YOU SAY, MONSTER!*

*IN-JOKE FOR KREE-LOVERS.--S.G.& R.T.

H-HOW'S MATT DOING THAT? UNLESS--YEAH! IT'S ALL PART OF THE ILLUSION! THAT'S IT! SURE!

BUT IT'S SO-- REALISTIC--

BUT--I CAN'T CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I SCREAM!

YOU CAN-- AND YOU WILL-- WITH MY HELP, ANGAR!

MOON DRAGON! ANGAR'S THE ANSWER! WE CAN DEFEAT TERREX IF HE CAN PROJECT A CERTAIN ILLUSION!

TOGETHER--WE'LL CREATE THE ILLUSION OF UN-LIFE! CORRECT, MAN OF THE KREE?

RIGHT! THE VERY SIGHT MAY DESTROY TERREX!

BE STILL, YOUNG ANGAR --I AM ABOUT TO ENTER-- YOUR SOUL.

GETTING DIZZY--LIKE I'M STRUNG OUT ON DOWNERS-- TRIPPIN' OUT!--

WAIT! WHAT YOU'RE SHOWIN' ME! I CAN'T LOOK--!

HIS EYES WIDEN, HIS MUSCLES GO TAUT WITH SHEER, BRAIN-CURDLING TERROR--AND HE SCREAMS ONCE MORE IN ARRANT FEAR!

AND HE CONTINUES HIS MIND-PIERCING WAIL AS A VEIL OF DARKNESS FALLS OVER THE EARTH --A BLACK RAIN THAT OBLITERATES EVERY-THING FROM VIEW--

--UNTIL ALL EXISTENCE SEEMS TO FALL BEHIND A VAST CURTAIN OF EBONY OPACITY--

--UNTIL THE WORLD IS BLOTTED OUT--

--AND EVEN THEN, SEEING WHAT HE SEES, ANGAR GOES ON SCREAMING--!

THROUGH THE DEMON DARKNESS TERREX COMES CLAWING--!

THE LIGHT! WHO STOLE AWAY THE LIGHT?

I--CAN'T SEE! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SEE!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE! OUT OF HERE!

GROPING--STUMBLING--A VERDANT LUMINESCENCE STAGGER-ING TOWARD THE EDGE OF MADNESS, THE GRAY DOMAIN OF NON-BEING--THE RIM OF THE PSYCHE!

AND WHEN THE GRAY IS ALL THERE IS, HE PAUSES --HE SEES--!

THE EGG-- UNIVERSAL SYMBOL OF LIFE!

AT LAST! SOMETHING TO LASH OUT AT--PANIC!-- FIST SMASHES FRAGILE OVAL--BRITTLE SHELL CRACKS--

AND FROM IT POURS--

ANOTHER BLACKNESS-- ANOTHER VOID--MORE INKY NOTHINGNESS! THE EGG WHOSE UNFERTILE YOLK SPAWNS OBLIVION--

--THAT IS THE HORROR CALLED--UN-LIFE!

THERE FOLLOWS: A GASP--LONG, PAINFUL. A CRY--SHORT, HIGH-PITCHED. A MOAN--ALMOST INAUDIBLE. AND THEN--

IT'S OVER. WHATEVER HE SAW MUST'VE BROKEN HIS MELD WITH TERREX--DESTROYING THE MONSTER.

AND KERWIN J. BRODERICK IS--DEAD.

LONG LIVE --THE KING.

AND ANGAR IS THE SCREAMER NO MORE. THIS TASK TOOK ALL HIS POWER. HIS NORMAL STATURE HAS RETURNED.

THAT LEAVES JUST ONE QUESTION:--WHAT DID TERREX SEE THAT ACCOMPLISHED THIS?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO AWESOME, SO COMPLETELY TERRIFYING! WHAT--?

I DARE NOT TELL YOU, MY FRIEND--FOR FEAR YOU MIGHT LAUGH. LET US SAY ONLY--

--IT WAS A SIMPLE THING--LIKE MOST FINAL TRUTHS.

AND WITH THAT, I MUST LEAVE YOU. I HAVE OTHER PRESSING AFFAIRS.

FAREWELL, THEN. PERHAPS--WE WILL MEET AGAIN!

THERE HE GOES, MATT--A MAN WHO'S BEEN TO THE ENDS OF THE UNIVERSE! ISN'T HE REMARKABLE?

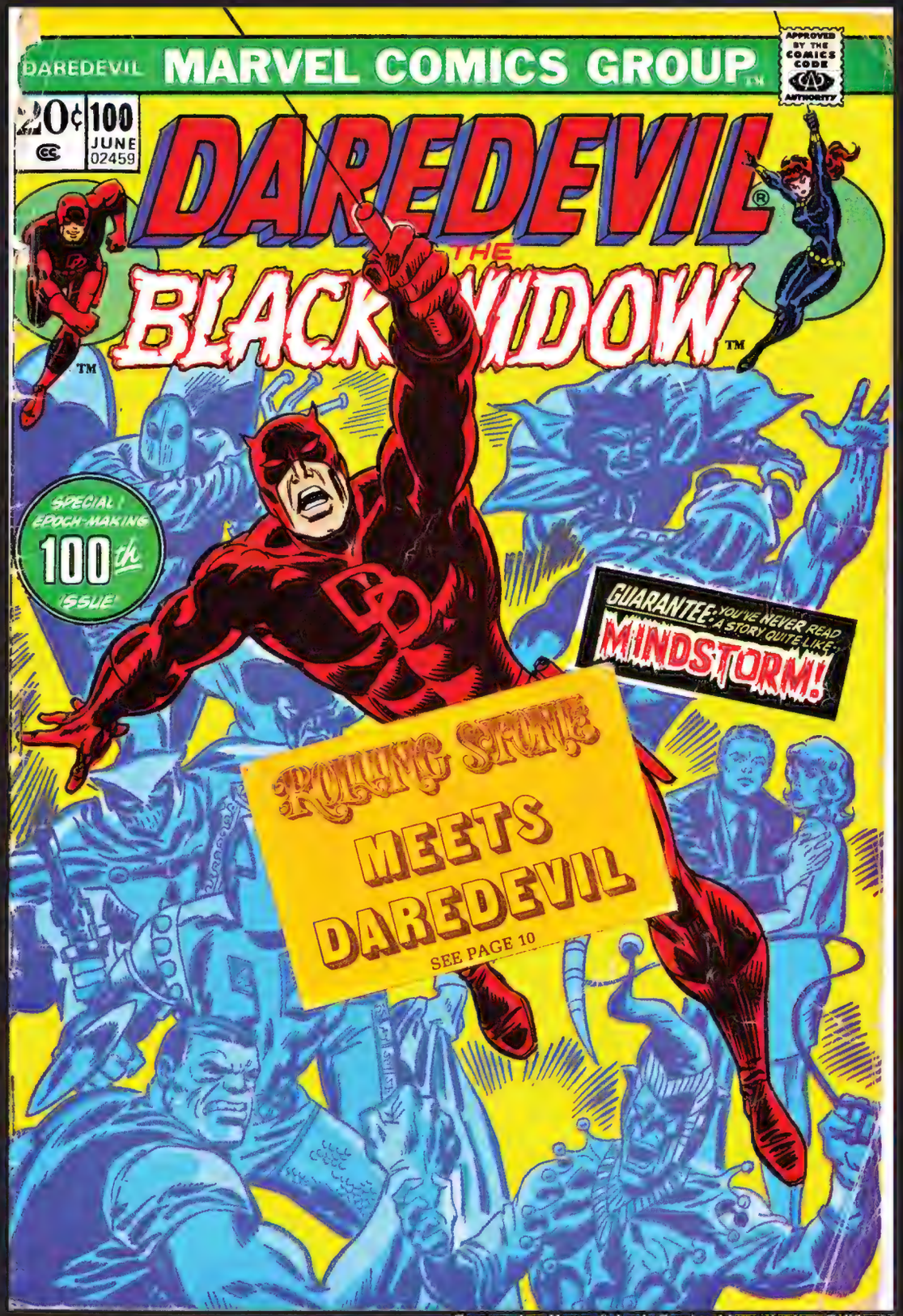
NO, BLACK WIDOW--THE GALAXY BOASTS MANY MEN WHO HAVE SEEN THE STARS--

--BUT ONLY ONE HAVE I MET WHOSE EYES CAN NOT SEE--YET WHO STILL DARES ALL FOR HIS CAUSE!

YOUR DAREDEVIL IS MORE ASTOUNDING BY FAR THAN I.

NEXT: NEW YORK! FOGGY NELSON! THE RETURN OF AN OLD FOE-AND THE MYSTERY OF--- BLACK SPECTRE!!

Copies of *Daredevil* #100 emblazoned with a *Rolling Stone* sticker affixed to the front cover were presumably given out by the magazine to promote its publisher's appearance in the issue.



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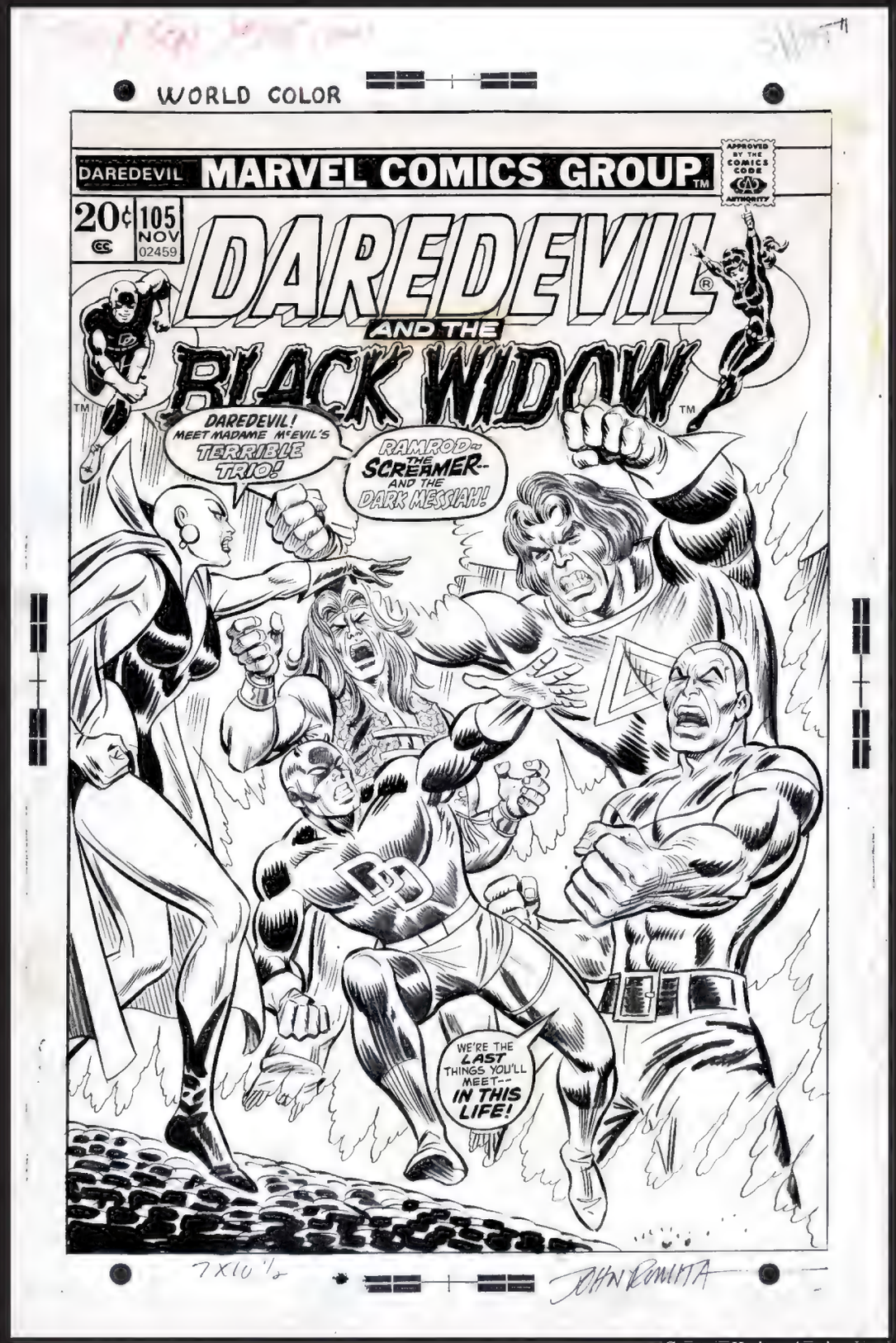

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BIOGRAPHIES

STEVE GERBER

If he had only been known for his work on *Howard the Duck*, Steve Gerber would still have been renowned as one of comics' most iconoclastic creators. After an unrewarding start as a copy writer in his native St. Louis, Gerber reached out to a fellow comics fan from his youth, Roy Thomas, and shortly thereafter began editing and writing for Marvel. He started on titles like *Iron Man*, *Sub-Mariner* and *Daredevil*, but it was his runs on *Man-Thing*, *The Defenders*, *Omega the Unknown* and *Howard the Duck* that defined his Marvel tenure as one of creative boundary pushing.

In *The Defenders* and *Omega the Unknown*, Gerber turned standard super-heroics upside down with his irreverent and sometimes inscrutable take on the genre. He took over Man-Thing shortly after the character's premiere as part of Marvel's early-'70s wave of monster titles, turning the tales of the shambling mass into a cult classic. And it was in *Man-Thing* that Gerber debuted Howard the Duck, the semi-autobiographical waterfowl that became an industry sensation and gave the writer a platform to share his sophisticated sense of humor and satire, gently and sometimes not-so-gently skewering politics, pop culture, and especially the comics industry.

A dispute over Howard with Marvel caused him to leave the company. It didn't stop him from returning to the character later in his career, but from the '80s on, his writing was mostly in animation and television, where he created *Thundarr the Barbarian* and won a Daytime Emmy as part of the team behind *The Batman/Superman Movie: World's Finest*. He also scripted *G.I. Joe*, *Transformers* and *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, as well as the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* episode "Contagion." Gerber passed away in 2008 after a battle with pulmonary fibrosis. His career accomplishments won him posthumous induction into the 2010 class of the Eisner Hall of Fame and the 2013 Bill Finger Award for Excellence in Comic Book Writing.

GENE COLAN

Gene "The Dean" Colan spent his life as a comics artist perfecting a unique style that relied on realistic figure drawing and moody shadows. At a time when the norm lent itself to more abstract cartooning, Colan helped broaden the aesthetic range of what comics could look like.

Born in Brooklyn in 1926, Colan always had an interest in drawing, and he took up studies at the Art Students League of New York. Colan served his country during World War II in the Philippines, and though this delayed his art career, it eventually paid off with a solid acumen at drawing realistic scenes of warfare for DC Comics (*Our Army at War*, *All-American Men at War*) and the Atlas/Marvel titles (*Battle*, *Marines in Battle*, *Navy Combat*). Over the next 15 years, Colan would continue to work on war, romance, horror and sci-fi comics, as well as licensed titles like *Hopalong Cassidy*.

But when the super-hero genre broke wide open again in the '60s, Colan was ready to take it on with gusto. Under the pseudonym Adam Austin, he first drew Marvel Comics super heroes, including Namor, the Sub-Mariner in *Tales to Astonish* and Iron Man in *Tales of Suspense*. Colan then moved on to a celebrated run on *Doctor Strange* with Roy Thomas, and a stint on *Captain America*, but the Marvel character he is most often associated with is Daredevil. Colan's *Daredevil* pages were steeped in fluid, athletic grace for nearly every issue across an 80-issue run leading to #100. He also drew a handful of issues right before Frank Miller would come on board, Miller's *Daredevil* naturally owing a great debt to the already established visual precepts of the Colan era.

During the rest of the '70s, Colan displayed the diversity of his talents drawing the satirical *Howard the Duck* and the horror series *Tomb of Dracula*. The latter was drenched in the mysterious and shadowy style that Colan had evolved over the years, which reached its zenith in the service of Marvel's version of Count Dracula. He drew the entire 70-issue run.

Colan worked steadily into the '80s, once again drawing *Doctor Strange* for Marvel and also doing work for DC, including *Phantom Force*, *Silver Blade* and an extended run drawing Batman. In 2005, Colan was ushered into the Will Eisner Hall of Fame, earning well-deserved acclaim for his life's work. In 2009, Colan returned to the pages of *Captain America* to draw a World War II-based epic that would win the 2010 Eisner Award for Best Single Issue. It would prove to be his last major work in comics, as he passed away in 2011 at the age of 84.

DON HECK

A native New Yorker and artist's artist, Don Heck began his comics career at Harvey Comics in 1949, but it was his dramatic covers for the Comic Media horror and war titles of the early '50s that got the attention of Stan Lee. Heck's future employer at Atlas/Marvel was engrossed by his stark images of battle-worn war heroes, creepy shrunken heads, gunshot victims, vampires and bristling cowboy action. In 1954 when Stan was searching through the list of free agent artists to hire for Atlas, Heck was extended an immediate offer.

Don attacked his Atlas assignments with aplomb, turning in page after page of work across all genres, including science fiction, jungle adventure, Westerns and romance. In fact, it was while toiling as a romance artist that Heck's reputation for stunning renderings of female beauty took hold.

Heck's most lasting contributions to the field came after the 1957 Atlas implosion. First as a member of the select cadre of artists Stan Lee brought back in 1958, and later as the artist who first defined Iron Man in the pages of *Tales of Suspense* #39, Heck's talents added a debonair flash to the Marvel line. He also earned renown for introducing the Black Widow and Hawkeye in *Tales of Suspense* #52 and #57 respectively and for his long tenure as artist on *The Avengers* with writers Stan Lee and Roy Thomas.

Heck worked throughout the '70s on titles including *The Flash*, *Justice League of America*, *Dial H for Hero* and Batgirl in *Detective Comics* and then intermittently through the early '90s for both Marvel and DC Comics. He passed away from lung cancer in 1995 at the age of 66.

BOB BROWN

An artist with a career reaching back to comics' Golden Age, Bob Brown has the respect of many longtime comic fans and fellow artists, with due consideration for being a sturdy, reliable craftsman who always delivered the goods. In the 1950s Brown freelanced across the industry on Western, spy, war, horror and romance titles. His most notable Atlas/Marvel work of the period was the 1955 debut of the original Rawhide Kid. At DC, he helped introduce Space Ranger in *Showcase* #15 (July 1958) and drew every one of the character's stories until its end in *Mystery In Space* in 1965. He also picked up the torch on DC's *Challengers of the Unknown* after Jack Kirby exited the series and turned in a run just as remarkable for its craft and consistency. In the 1970s his extended runs on *The Avengers* and *Daredevil* included the blockbuster Avengers/Defenders War and the first appearance of Daredevil's nemesis Bullseye. Besides these titles, you will find Bob Brown's name on dozens of stories in nearly every genre known to comics, a true everyman in the medium. While employed as an artist for both Marvel and DC, Brown died in 1977.

RICH BUCKLER

Rich Buckler, along with John Buscema and George Pérez, helped define the '70s era of Marvel's flagship title, *Fantastic Four*. His dynamic style and muscular figurework carried on the tradition set by Jack Kirby. Buckler's first published artwork was a backup in King Feature's 1967 *Flash Gordon* #10, and in 1970 he landed work on Warren's *Eerie* and *Creepy* horror magazines. After illustrating a few backup stories at DC Comics, he turned to Marvel for his first feature work. By 1973, he was turned loose on *Fantastic Four* and other Marvel ongoing series like *Jungle Action* (featuring Black Panther) and *Astonishing Tales*, in which he and writer Doug Moench launched Deathlok the Demolisher. The post-apocalyptic story of Col. Luther Manning, their run on "Deathlok" was a defining vision of a future gone wrong. Its influence and themes of military rule, reanimation and killer cyborgs would be reflected in films from *The Terminator* to *RoboCop*. After a time with DC, where he teamed with Roy Thomas on *All-Star Squadron*, Buckler returned to Marvel for work on *Spectacular Spider-Man*, *New Mutants* and a return engagement with *Fantastic Four* in the late '90s when he collaborated with writers such as Steve Englehart and Walt Simonson. He has a thriving career outside comics as a surrealist painter.

CHRIS CLAREMONT

It is hard to remember a time when the word "mutant" didn't correspond with the largest and most ardently followed franchise in comics, but in the mid-'70s the X-Men were naught but a forgotten team of misfits. Chris Claremont and his collaborators took this moribund property and issue by issue transformed it into a phenomenon now known the world over.

Claremont began his career in comics in the early '70s pitching in on issues of *Avengers*, *Daredevil* and *Incredible Hulk*, while also delivering several text stories to Marvel's black-and-white magazines. His first regular writing gig was *War Is Hell*, a "weird war" title that came to a close just as his run on *X-Men* and *Iron Fist* began. *Iron Fist*, which rolled out of the pages of *Marvel Premiere*, was done in concert with artist John Byrne, forming a key partnership that would pay big dividends later. Other high-profile projects from Claremont's first full decade in comics included *Marvel Preview*'s Starlord, *Ms. Marvel*, *Marvel Team-Up* (again with Byrne) and *John Carter: Warlord of Mars*.

But it was in the pages of *X-Men* where Claremont would change comics history. In tandem with artists Dave Cockrum and John Byrne, Claremont helped build a cornerstone franchise for Marvel. After writer Len Wein launched the newly updated series in 1975 with *Giant-Size X-Men* #1, Claremont was tasked with guiding the new adventures of the mutant misfits, and he did so by crafting layered stories that balanced crisp dialogue with high-octane action. Claremont placed a premium on characterization, a lofty goal in a team book with many players, but he did so deftly enough to spin a wide-ranging tapestry of characters, each of whom became fan favorites.

Leading breathless fans down the path of classics including "The Dark Phoenix Saga," "Days of Future Past," and *God Loves, Man Kills*, he helped build such an intense loyalty that it only made sense to spin-off the X-Men's success into new books. The first such spin-off was *The New Mutants*. Later in the decade, Claremont launched *Excalibur* with Alan Davis and established a regular series for Wolverine with John Buscema.

In 1990, he launched a new sister title for the main team of mutants with Jim Lee; *X-Men* #1 premiered to numbers that made it the highest-selling comic ever. After a long break from the company, Claremont returned to Marvel in 2000, and over the next ten years wrote the novelization of Bryan Singer's X-Men film, took on the Fantastic Four, and charted the adventures of Marvel's mutants across a variety of titles.

GERRY CONWAY

In 1969, 16-year-old Gerry Conway was shopping short stories to DC and Marvel for their horror anthology books. By 1976, Conway had worked his way up to Marvel's editor in chief. In between, he logged highlight after highlight as writer for both companies.

After establishing a pedigree with horror short stories, Conway quickly became the regular writer of *Daredevil*, *Sub-Mariner* and *Iron Man*. He also began runs on *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Thor*, picking up both titles from none other than Stan Lee. He scripted both for nearly 50 issues, writing controversial and classic tales including "The Death of Gwen Stacy," the first appearance of the Punisher, and the introduction of Harry Osborn as the Green Goblin. Cueing off his early interest in horror stories, Conway took advantage of Marvel's burgeoning line of horror comics, launching *Werewolf By Night* and *Man-Thing*, as well as writing the first issue of *Tomb of Dracula*.

In 1976, he was handed the top job at Marvel before transitioning to DC Comics. One of his first big assignments was writing the script for one of the first inter-company crossovers, *Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man.* Shortly thereafter, he began a long tenure on prime DC titles like *Superboy & The Legion of Super-Heroes*, *World's Finest* and *Wonder Woman*. He also introduced Firestorm with Al Milgrom in 1978, scribing all five issues of the short-lived '70s incarnation.

As the '80s dawned, he started a long run writing both key Batman titles, *Detective Comics* and *Batman*, and continued his run on *Justice League of America*, a stint that began in earnest in 1978 and would end with the dismantling of the infamous JLA Detroit in 1986. During this era, he also revived Firestorm with artist Pat Broderick; this time the title found traction and Conway wrote the first 53 issues. A return to Marvel in the late '80s saw Conway tackling two of the three Spider-Man titles: *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Web of Spider-Man*.

During this period, Conway was asserting himself as a writer in film and television. His early '80s screenplay collaborations with Roy Thomas resulted in the animated film *Fire and Ice* and barbarian sequel *Conan the Destroyer*. By the late '80s, his opportunities in television writing had expanded, and he left comics to pursue writing and producing for *Matlock*, *Father Dowling Mysteries*, *Diagnosis: Murder* and *Law & Order*.

Today, Conway continues writing and producing for television and has recently returned to script the occasional comic. He resides in California with his wife and their daughter.

STEVE ENGLEHART

He broke into the comic industry as an artist in the early '70s, but it was Steve Englehart's strengths as a writer that helped him chart a career in comics marked by the bravery with which he incorporated current political themes into his work.

One of Englehart's first principal titles was *The Avengers*, which he quickly made his own, introducing the character Mantis and exploring her exotic roots. He also took on *The Defenders*, Marvel's famed non-team, bringing Valkyrie into the mix. Only a year into his tenure as writer on these two books, he connected them for a three-month, six-issue crossover extravaganza—"The Avengers/Defenders War," one of comics' seminal crossover events. His run on *The Avengers* would extend for another four years, including the classic "Celestial Madonna" and "Serpent Crown" story lines.

Handed *Captain America* at the height of the anti-war '70s, Englehart turned the book on its head, tapping into current events like the Watergate scandal and creating a heady mix of adventure and politics. Stories like "The Secret Empire" and "Nomad," in which Steve Rogers abandoned Cap's costume and shield to explore what his identity really meant, were challenging takes on the time-tested character.

Other titles from his first tenure at Marvel included *Doctor Strange*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hero for Hire*, and *Amazing Adventures* featuring the X-Men's Beast. He also introduced Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu, with Jim Starlin in the pages of *Special Marvel Edition* #15.

In 1977, Englehart headed to DC, where his "Dark Detective" vision of Batman with artist Marshall Rogers would later inspire filmmaker Tim Burton's approach to the first Batman feature film. He also had a memorable run writing *Justice League of America* before moving to other creative pursuits, including writing novels and developing video game concepts.

In 1983, Englehart collaborated with artist Steve Leialoha on *Coyote*, a groundbreaking independent comic. He returned to Marvel to establish a new title, *West Coast Avengers*, wrote the 12-issue limited series *Vision & The Scarlet Witch*, and long runs on *Fantastic Four* and *Silver Surfer*. In the midst of all this, Englehart wrote *Green Lantern* for DC, further developing the ranks of the Green Lantern Corps.

During the early '90s, Englehart was pivotal in the debut of Malibu's popular Ultraverse characters and also lent his talents to the Claypool Comics line. He continued with video game development and also wrote animation features like *G.I. Joe*. Recent comics work includes *Hellcat*, *Avengers: Celestial Quest*, *JLA Classified* and a return to Batman in the *Dark Detective* limited series.

SAM KWESKIN

Born in Chicago in 1924, Sam Kweskin began a lifetime of drawing as a small child scribbling cowboys and Indians on butcher paper. By the age of 16, he had won a scholarship to art school and lucked into a private audience with legendary illustrator Hal Foster. After serving in World War II, he continued his training at the Art Institute of Chicago. Upon graduation in 1949, Kweskin embarked on a job in cartoon animation, working with Disney alum Sam Singer and developing series for local TV. In 1952, a chance meeting with an associate of Martin Goodman led him to New York City and a freelance position with Marvel's 1950s incarnation, Atlas. There, he drew the gamut of genre offerings—war, crime, Western and horror—while also joining the cavalcade of top creators who drew *Bible Tales for Young Folk*. After the 1957 Atlas implosion, Kweskin moved back into advertising art. By the early '70s, he was president of his own art agency, but in 1972 was invited by Stan Lee to rejoin Marvel. Under the pseudonym Irv Wesley, Kweskin contributed to issues of *Sub-Mariner*, *Daredevil* and *Marvel Premiere*—but pressure from his other work obligations made his return to comics a short-lived one. Kweskin passed away in Florida in 2005 at the age of 81.

SYD SHORES

Syd Shores never planned a career in comics. When his uncle's whiskey bottling company went belly-up in 1940, the unemployed plant manager went looking for a new job. A former Pratt Institute art student, Shores was encouraged by his newlywed wife to visit her cousin, Harry Chesler, to see if there was any work available. He was given a job as a go-fer, and Chesler's stable of artists, which included comics pioneer Mac Raboy, inspired Shores to pursue a career in the new medium. He was soon hired on Timely's smash hit *Captain America Comics* as an inker. Some of his earliest penciling work came on "The Terror" in *Mystic* Comics #5, written by his brother-in-law Phil Sturm, and "Major Liberty" in *U.S.A. Comics* #1-4. By late 1941, Simon and Kirby had left Timely, Shores continued inking *Captain America* and by 1942 he became the series' chief penciler and Timely's art director. Shores would pencil more Golden Age Captain America stories than any other artist. He continued penciling and inking *Captain America*, *Young Allies* and other Timely comics until 1944 when he, too, was drafted.

Upon his return, he continued drawing for Timely and mentoring the company's artists, including a young Gene Colan, who cited Shores as his main early artistic influence. Shores went freelance in 1948 after the disbanding of the Timely Bullpen. He continued to work for Timely, now Atlas, becoming one of Stan Lee's "go to" artists across the many genres of the era, and also drew for Avon, Orbit and other publishers. After a period running a studio with Norman Steinberg and Mort Lawrence, Shores gravitated to commercial art in the wake of the 1957 "Atlas Implosion." Stan Lee beckoned him back to Marvel in 1968, where he once more inked Jack Kirby's pencils on *Captain America*. He worked steadily in comics up to his death in 1973.

JIM STARLIN

When Jim Starlin came along in the early '70s, super-hero comics were populated primarily by earthbound heroes, but this young writer/artist revolutionized "cosmic" comics, a genre full of space-opera drama and high-minded philosophizing that required the expansive reaches of the universe to fully flourish.

Inspired as a young man by Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, in 1972 Starlin followed fellow Detroiter Rich Buckler to Marvel. After assisting John Romita on Spider-Man and drawing covers, Starlin spun a short stint on *Iron Man*—where he introduced Thanos and Drax the Destroyer – into the beginnings of an epic *Captain Marvel* saga that would redefine the character.

In late 1973, Starlin and writer Steve Englehart launched the first kung fu comic in the pages of *Special Marvel Edition*, and later in *Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu*. Then, in perhaps his most ambitious work to date, Jim revived Roy Thomas and Gil Kane's Adam Warlock, taking the messianic hero to mind-bending new heights. The short run on the cosmic character is still regarded as a high point of '70s Marvel.

By the late '70s, Starlin headed over to DC, but in 1982 he returned to Marvel for the *Death of Captain Marvel* graphic novel. Inspired by Starlin's compulsion to work through the death of his father, the story is considered to be his masterpiece. Soon after, *Dreadstar*, the debut title of Marvel's Epic line, introduced fans to Starlin's wholly original cosmic concept. Writing and drawing the adventures of Vanth Dreadstar as he fought against the monolithic vestiges of church and state, Starlin guided the series throughout a long and successful run. At DC, Starlin penned the milestone "A Death in the Family" in *Batman*, which culminated in Robin's demise; *Batman: The Cult* and *The Weird* with Bernie Wrightson; and *Cosmic Odyssey* with Mike Mignola.

In the early '90s, he took over writing *Silver Surfer* for a 17-issue run that reintroduced Thanos and Adam Warlock. At the same time, he wrote the first chapters in what would be a sprawling epic that would play out over the next 15 years with *The Thanos Quest*, *The Infinity Gauntlet*, *Infinity War* and *Infinity Crusade*. In 2001, Starlin would return to Warlock and Thanos in the *Infinity Abyss* and *Thanos*.

Recent projects include *Kid Kosmos* for Dynamite, *Death of the New Gods* and *Mystery In Space* for DC and a series of *Thanos* original graphic novels for Marvel.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

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THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

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THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

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